

# **Interoperability as a Design Principle of the Digital Economy**

One-day Workshop, Stern School of Business, NYU

Rm 550, 44 West 4th Street, New York, NY 10012.

March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Co-organized by the

[Fubon Center for Technology, Business and Innovation](#) at NYU Stern

[NET Institute](#) and the [UCL Centre for Law, Economics and Society](#)

**Interoperability** has emerged as a critical regulatory lever in digital markets, yet its deployment raises fundamental questions about when and how to impose structural interventions in concentrated digital business ecosystems. This workshop examines interoperability not merely as a technical standard but as a policy tool for reshaping digital architectures characterized by hyperscalers, network effects, and data-driven complementarities. As digital infrastructures—from operating systems and cloud platforms to payments and AI systems—exhibit superlinear returns to scale and multi-sided feedback loops that generate persistent bottlenecks, regulators increasingly turn to interoperability mandates to counter market concentration. Such interventions may however also risk diluting beneficial complementarities, creating security vulnerabilities, and dampening investment incentives, demanding careful calibration.

The workshop adopts a multidisciplinary approach, integrating insights from network economics, business strategy, and innovation economics to develop a richer conceptual framework. We conceptualize digital ecosystems as lattices of complementarities—linking users, developers, data, and infrastructure—where scaling laws serve as empirical signatures of supermodular relationships. This framing enables deeper analysis of how interoperability obligations redistribute network complementarities across ecosystem layers and whether horizontal versus vertical interoperability mandates differ in their structural effects.

Through comparative institutional analysis, participants will examine diverse interoperability regimes spanning telecom interconnection, antitrust cases (Microsoft, Android Auto), the EU's Digital Markets Act and Data Act, Open banking and digital health regulation in the EU and the US, and emerging challenges in blockchain, AI and the metaverse. This cross-sectoral perspective illuminates how ex ante versus ex post regulatory approaches differ in their capacity to reshape dominant platforms, and whether interoperability functions more effectively as a

competition remedy, a regulatory obligation, or a design principle embedded in sector-specific rules.

The workshop concludes with applied explorations of interoperability in social media, open banking/finance, digital health, and frontier technologies including blockchain, AI systems, and the metaverse. These case studies ground theoretical insights in practical implementation challenges, examining technical feasibility, competitive dynamics, and the distributional consequences of mandating interconnection in markets where complementarities and scale effects are most pronounced. The goal of the workshop is to equip policymakers, scholars, and practitioners with a unified analytical framework for evaluating interoperability as a family of interventions capable of restructuring digital markets.

Audience: academics, policymakers, business, graduate students; no fee

**Available in person or in Zoom (link TBA)**

**RSVP at [google form](#).**

### **Program**

9:00 Registration; Continental breakfast

9:10 Opening remarks: Arun Sundararajan, Fubon Center, Stern NYU

9:15 Introductory remarks: Nicholas Economides, Stern NYU

### **9:20 – 10:50 Panel 1: Scaling Laws, Complementarities and Interoperability: Beyond Network Effects**

*Moderator: Ioannis Lianos, UCL Laws & NYU Law School*

Nicholas Economides, Stern NYU

Scott Hemphill, NYU Law School

Barry Nalebuff, Yale School of Management (remotely)

Howard Shelanski, Georgetown University

Tommaso Valletti, Imperial College London (remotely)

Xavier Vives, IESE Business School (remotely)

**10:50 – 11:20 Keynote speech followed by Q&A : Vint Cerf, Google (remotely)**

**11:20 – 11:35 Coffee Break**

**11:35 – 13:00 Panel 2: Designing Interoperability in Social Media**

*Moderator: Nicholas Economides, Stern NYU*

Eliana Garcés, ALP Economics

Annabelle Gawer, University of Surrey

Gonenc Gurkaynak, ELIG & UCL

Rossitza Kotzeva, European Commission (remotely)

Richard Reisman, Teleshuttle Corporation & The

Foundation of American Innovation

Marshall Van Alstyne, Boston University (remotely)

**13:00 – 13:40 Lunch Break**

**13:40 – 15:10 Panel 3: Interoperability as an Antitrust Remedy and Limits: US and EU Perspectives**

*Moderator: Christos Makridis, Arizona State University & Gallup*

Harry First, NYU Law School

Eleanor Fox, NYU Law School

Ioannis Lianos, UCL Laws & NYU Law School

Danica Noble, Antitrust & Consumer Protection Committee,

Washington State Bar Association; formerly FTC

Dan Rubinfeld, NYU Law School and UC Berkeley

**15:10 – 15:25 Coffee break**

**15:25 – 16:45 Panel 4: Digital Regulatory Regimes for Interoperability: Retrospective and Prospective - General (DMA, Data Act), Open Banking/Finance, Open Health**

*Moderator: Eleanor Fox, NYU Law School*

Elettra Bietti, Northeastern with Daji Landis, NYU and Sunoo Park,  
NYU Courant Institute

Martin Gaynor, Carnegie Mellon University

Christopher Yoo, University of Pennsylvania

Nicolo Zingales, FGV Brazil

**16:45-17:45 New Challenges: AI, Blockchain, Metaverse**

*Moderator: Ioannis Lianos, UCL Laws & NYU Law School*

Victor Oliveira Fernandes, CADE & IDP

Christos Makridis, Arizona State University & Gallup

Christopher Sprigman, NYU Law School

Arun Sundararajan, Stern NYU

**17:45 End of the Workshop**