

# What has the Information Society done to the law?

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# **Project: Network Society as a paradigm for legal and societal thinking**

- How has information society as a concept evolved internationally and in Finland, both in scientific thinking and political discourses?
- How is the nature of legal regulation changing in the network society, while strengthening the rule of law state?

<http://www.uta.fi/cmt/en/research/comet/projects/NETSOENG.html>

# **Institutional history: International-political structures facilitating the IS idea**

- OECD computer/telecommunications policy – 1970s
- EU boosting economic growth – 1990s
- WSIS as final legitimation – 2000s

**Conceptual history:  
Themes & thinkers of IS paradigm  
(with Frank Webster)  
In the 1960-70s**

- Knowledge industry (Fritz Machlup 1962)
- Global village (Marshall McLuhan 1962)
- Civilization at crossroads (Radovan Richta 1967)
- Information society (Yoneji Masuda 1968)
- Age of discontinuity (Peter F. Drucker 1969)
- Programmed society (Alain Touraine 1971)
- Post-industrial society (Daniel Bell 1973)
- Information economy (Edwin Parker, Marc Porat 1975)
- Future shock (Alvin Toffler 1976)

# Conceptual history, cont.

## In the 1980-90s

- Computerization of society (Simon Noran et al 1980)
- Technologies of freedom (Ithiel de Sola Pool 1983)
- Crisis economy (Herbert I. Schiller 1984)
- Cult of Information (Theodore Roszak 1986)
- Virtual community (Howard Rheingold 1993)
- Knowledge societies (Nico Stehr 1994)
- Postmodern society (Krishan Kumar, Mark Poster 1995)
- Network society (Manuel Castells 1996)

# Conceptual history, cont.

## In the 2000s

- Runaway world (Anthony Giddens 2000)
- Surveillance society (David Lyon 2001)
- Personalised networking (Barry Wellman 2001)
- Commons (Lawrence Lessig 2002)
- Ubiquitous (Ken Sakamura 2007)
- Cocooning (Cass Sunstein 2009)
- Shallows (Nicholas Carr 2010)
- Internet governance (Wolfgang Kleinwächter 2011)

# Conceptual levels of consideration

- Technology
- Economy
- Human
- Governance

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# Elements of big story behind the IS

- Information as productive force
- Mediation in social relations
- Globalization
- Capitalism



# **Legal trends in Network Society: Reflections by Ahti Saarenpää**

1. Juridification
2. Constitutional State
3. Legal Welfare
4. Network Society
5. Legal Standards and Certification
6. Legal Safeguards
7. Legal Informatics