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## **Dr. Laura DeNardis**

### **Professor at American University, Director of Research for the Global Commission on Internet Governance**

Dr. DeNardis is a scholar of Internet architecture holds an international appointment as the Director of Research for the Global Commission on Internet Governance.

Domestically, she is an appointed member of the U.S. Department of State's Advisory Committee on International Communications and Information Policy (ACICIP).

She has more than two decades of experience as an expert consultant in Internet governance to Fortune 500 companies, foundations, and government agencies. The author of *The Global War for Internet Governance* (Yale University Press 2014) and other books, her expertise has been featured in *Science Magazine*, *The Economist*, *National Public Radio*, *New York Times*, *Time Magazine*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Slate*, *Reuters*, *Forbes*, *The Atlantic*, and the *Wall Street Journal*.

### **Subject Area/Topic: ISSUES OF FUTURE INTERNET CONTROL**

**Highlights:** "We live in an era in which the economy, social life, and the political sphere are now completely dependent upon cyberspace; but at the same time, we have increasingly high-profile data breaches and we have geopolitical tensions over who controls the internet."

"The internet has grown to 3 billion and will soon grow to 5 billion with the majority of this happening in the developing world with people accessing the internet via mobile phones.... It's not an exaggeration to say that the internet has been one of the most significant developments in human history."

While there is no single [internet] control system, there is one fairly centralized oversight role: the administration of internet names and numbers....At the heart of this system is the US Government, because it holds the contract with ICANN (The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) and because the US authorizes changes to the internet's root zone file, the authoritative mapping between top-level domains like .com, .uk, .edu, etc. and their associated numbers." "...the Obama administration announced that it would transition this function to a global stakeholder community, an announcement met with international enthusiasm and mixed reactions in the US."

Dr. DeNardis then presented a detailed discussion of governmental efforts to weaken encryption as well as efforts by China and others to impose national borders around the internet infrastructure.