

Jeff Bleich Centre

for the US Alliance
in Digital Technology,
Security & Governance

An expert voice on emerging technology for positive social impact – in policy, laws and political behaviours in the domains of national security, governance and democracy.

What we do

The Jeff Bleich Centre for the US Alliance in Digital Technology, Security and Governance (JBC) is named after Jeffrey Bleich – a former US Ambassador to Australia, appointed by President Obama in 2009. The JBC recognises the positive social impact that digital technologies can facilitate, as well as the misuses that undermine public trust and democratic values and processes. We are focused on applying a social sciences lens to emerging technologies in the areas of laws, policy, governance and political behaviours.

Building Social Cybersecurity Awareness in the Public Sector

A \$US250,000 grant from the global William and Flora Hewlett Foundation has paved the way for the JBC to launch a pilot program to enhance social cyber capabilities in South Australia's public sector. The team is working to ensure that decision makers in our governments know how to build a safe, sustainable, and positive digital future.

Examining Commercial and Defence Uses of Outer Space

The JBC is concerned with growing commercial and defence uses of outer space, and how those uses either conflict with existing legal regimes, or occur outside the domain of current policy and regulation. The team's research in this area also explores hypothetical policy and regulation, and the potential it has to achieve ethical outcomes.

Understanding How Digital Technology Accelerates Extremism

Digitisation has seen extremist ideologies rise at a faster pace than ever before. The JBC is researching how malign entities harness digital technologies to manipulate the online information environment and foment political polarisation in liberal democracies.



"We all know that the advent of digital technology has fundamentally changed the way we each work, eat, shop, and live. But it has also changed our societies and how we defend ourselves. Our nations — both separately and together — must operate in new ways to preserve our values and protect our people and allies in new battle spaces. This is the mission of the Jeff Bleich Centre for the US Alliance in Digital Technology, Security, and Governance."

Mr Jeff Bleich

Former United States Ambassador to Australia



"Our mission at the College of Business, Government and Law is to embrace innovative knowledge and practice to tackle the challenges of our time, with a strategic focus on technology, health and social impact. The mission of the Jeff Bleich Centre aligns perfectly with those goals, and so I strongly believe it will continue to produce research that drives social impact and works to create a better world."

Professor Michael Gilding

Vice-President and Executive Dean
College of Business, Government and Law, Flinders University

Who we are



Professor Melissa de Zwart – Centre Director

Professor de Zwart is a thought-leader in the area of law and technology and has a strong international profile in the fields of internet law and the regulation of access to and uses of outer space. She previously served as Dean of the Adelaide Law School, University of Adelaide (2017-2021), and Chair of the Council of Australian Law Deans. She is currently the Deputy Chair of the Space Industry Association of Australia, Board Member of the Australian Academy of Law and a Lieutenant in the Royal Australian Navy (Reserve).

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Mr Joel Lisk – Research Associate, Space Law

Lisk principally researches the laws applicable to private and commercial activities in new operating domains with a particular focus on the use of outer space. Joel's main research focuses on how domestic laws are designed and their consequential impacts on commercial activities. Joel is a qualified lawyer, having previously worked in the areas of consumer and competition law, privacy and data, not-for-profits, and complex regulatory regimes. Joel continues to provide advice in these areas. Joel is also the Secretary of the Space Law Council of Australia and New Zealand.

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Dr Melissa-Ellen Dowling – Senior Research Fellow

Dr Melissa-Ellen Dowling is a political sociologist with the JBC. Her research interests converge around the theme of democratic resilience in a digital era, within which she investigates online ideological extremism, cyber information operations, and foreign interference. Dr Dowling leads the government-funded project, Modelling Digital Ideological Extremism.

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Research Affiliates



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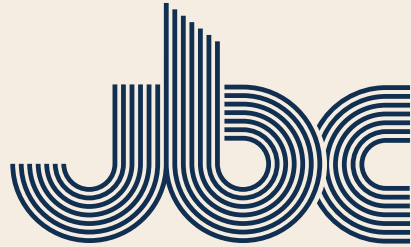
Professor Tania Leiman



Dr Maryanne Kelton



Dr James Scheibner



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Partner with us

Collaborating with the JBC will maximise the opportunities of emerging technologies to laws, policy, governance and political behaviours. Our independence, which we continuously endeavour to protect, amplifies the advantages for our partners.

Contact us

[Flinders.edu.au/jeff-bleich-centre](https://flinders.edu.au/jeff-bleich-centre)