



The Electro-Governance Group presents

Dr. Jean-Philippe Vergne (University College, London)

THE WEB WILL BE *DECENTRALIZED!*
(FOR REAL THIS TIME)
BUT

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN,
AND
HOW CAN WE TELL?

The terms 'distributed' & 'decentralized' have been used somewhat interchangeably to refer to *the dispersion of authority*, broadly speaking. Here, I distinguish between **distribution** as *decision-making-dispersion* & **decentralization** as *information-dispersion* to relax the implicit assumption that decision-making & information always go hand-in-hand (or the idea that agents who make decisions have, by design, access to relevant information, and *vice versa*). I then differentiate between distributed & decentralized organization, & propose new measures, actionable in digital platform settings, to capture these two dimensions. The ability to precisely define & measure decentralization & distribution has practical implications for regulating platforms, ranging from *youtube.com* to *Ethereum*, as well as conceptual implications for revisiting the elusive notion of 'power' in cyberspace.

Electro-Governance-Group member Jean-Philippe Vergne, formerly Associate Professor of Strategy at Western University's *Ivey School of Business* here in London Ontario (where he was Director of the fintech-focused 'Scotiabank Digital-Banking Lab'), presently Associate Professor of Strategy at the *UCL School of Management* & Research Associate of the *UCL Centre for Blockchain Technology* in the *Other London* (London England), is a scholar whose work examines the evolution of capitalist societies since the early seventeenth century. In particular, he explores how socially-contested organizations affect the renewal of industries at the vanguard of the economy (see his 2013 publication, *The Pirate Organization: Lessons from the Fringes of Capitalism*, written with fellow organization-theorist *Rodolphe Duran*).

ONLINE (ON THE WEB), FREE, & OPEN TO ALL:
JOIN US THURSDAY APRIL 28 at 11:00 am EDT.

[WesternUniversity.Zoom.US/j/94579863747](https://WesternUniversity.zoom.us/j/94579863747)

Meeting ID = 945 7986 3747. Passcode = *egg*

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