

Press release



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Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition hosting new “Journalist in Residence”

Michaela Hutterer to investigate the significance of net neutrality in economic and competition-law terms

(Munich, 18.06.2018) The Munich Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition has awarded its second Journalist in Residence fellowship. Starting on 1 June, Munich-based journalist Michaela Hutterer will hold the position for three months. During this time her work will focus on the current debate surrounding the regulation of net neutrality.

The Journalist in Residence program has been offered over the past few years by a small number of scientific institutions in Germany. These include, besides the Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition in Munich, the Cologne Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies, since 2005, and, since 2013, the Berlin Max Planck Institute for the History of Science. In this program the journalist has the status of a guest scientist and takes part in the scientific activities of the host Institute, thereby getting to know the research operations from within. This is intended to improve the quality

of science journalism, while at the same time giving the Institute's researchers insights into improved ways to communicate research results to the public.

"The fellowship does not primarily serve to present media-relevant research results; rather, it offers journalists through the exchange with researchers and insights into their working methods a more profound understanding of both sides – that of the research field and that of the public", says Prof. Reto M. Hilty, Managing Director of the Institute. "Topics dealing with the data-driven economy and its regulatory needs touch on an important field of research at our Institute", adds Prof. Josef Drexler, likewise Director of the law department.

"The equality of data on the Internet is associated with many areas of our legal and economic research", explains Prof. Dietmar Harhoff, Director of the economics department of the Institute.

Hutterer examines in her project the most recent regulatory steps in the US and considers the possible need for regulation for German companies and consumers with a view to the provisions of EU law.

About the Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition

The central focus of research at the Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition is on examining processes of innovation and competition and on developing proposals for designing framework conditions for these processes. The research questions are examined by a law department and an economics department. The Institute was founded in 1966 as the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Patent, Copyright and Competition Law. In 2013, after the establishment of a new economics department, its name was changed to Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition. The Institute is one of 84 institutes of the Max Planck Society, one of Germany's leading research organizations. In choosing and executing their research tasks, the Max Planck Institutes are free and independent; thus, each has its own internally administered budget, which can be augmented project-wise by external funding. The research at the Institute must meet the criteria for scientific excellence of the Max Planck Society, which is ensured by regular audits. For further information visit: www.ip.mpg.de/en