



For immediate release
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Exclusive discussion about the future of data and the privacy and security of data in wartime with Chelsea Manning and Carmela Troncoso

*During a discussion with **Carmela Troncoso**, an EPFL professor working on developing building blocks for engineers to design privacy-preserving systems, former whistleblower **Chelsea Manning** will debate over the future of data and discuss how civilians or journalists can continue to communicate safely in war zones. The discussion, initiated by the **EPFL Centre for Digital Trust and Trust Valley**, will take place on 07 March 2022 at 5.30pm at the Rolex Learning Centre.*

The past decade has been characterized by unprecedented generation and exploitation of data for commercial as well as military aims – without the knowledge, meaningful participation or consent by ordinary people. The context of another war raises the pressing issue of surveillance and targeting of civilians.

A wave of new privacy-preserving and decentralised technologies have emerged in recent years, seeking to establish privacy and data as a public good. Can decentralised privacy preserving technologies serve as a form of “cybersecurity from below” to help protect civilians?

This discussion brings together two eminent people working at the forefront of privacy and digital rights to **discuss the future of privacy and data as a public good and the possibilities of cybersecurity for the benefit of ordinary people in times of escalating conflict.**

Carmela Troncoso is a distinguished EPFL professor, notable for her work on the decentralised, privacy-preserving COVID-19 contract tracing system DP3. She will be in conversation with **Chelsea Manning**, a whistleblower and former intelligence analyst for the U.S. Department of Defense. Manning now works on Nym, a global decentralised privacy system, developed by Nym Technologies S/A, a Switzerland based startup. Manning stresses the importance of the human element in development of technology and the imperative to operate with responsibility, accountability, and a strong moral compass.

Nym Technologies is one of the promising startups to have been supported by the Tech4Trust programme, a startup acceleration program boosting innovative solutions to improve trust in an era of disinformation, cyberthreats and global misuse of our private and personal data. Nym Tech is currently building the next generation of privacy infrastructure.

Tech4Trust is one of the programmes of the **Trust Valley**, a joint initiative supported by the State of Vaud and State and Republic of Geneva, the academic world and Swiss and international industry captains working on digital trust and cybersecurity. As part of its

missions and thanks to an innovative public-private partnership which is currently gaining ground, the Trust Valley aims to attract new strategic players and foster the emergence of new talents.

Housed at EPFL, **the Center for Digital Trust (C4DT)** brings together 20 partners, 37 laboratories, civil society, and policy actors to collaborate, share insight, and to gain early access to trust-building technologies, building on state-of-the-art research at EPFL and beyond.

The event will be followed by a cocktail and a press conference.

And it will be broadcast live by EPFL on this link: <https://youtu.be/PhOk3vVa6zE>

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