

Table of Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	<i>v</i>
<i>List of Abbreviations</i>	<i>xiii</i>
<i>Table of Cases</i>	<i>xv</i>
<i>Introduction</i>	<i>1</i>
1. <i>The Foundations of Free Speech and Freedom of the Press</i>	<i>8</i>
I. <i>Freedom of Speech in the Age of the Internet</i>	<i>8</i>
A. <i>Searching for the Truth</i>	<i>8</i>
B. <i>Operation of Democracy</i>	<i>11</i>
C. <i>The Individualist Theory</i>	<i>12</i>
D. <i>Justifications of the Freedom of Speech: Theory and Practice</i>	<i>13</i>
E. <i>Reconciling the Justifications</i>	<i>14</i>
II. <i>The Category of ‘Speech’ and the Scope of Protection</i>	<i>15</i>
A. <i>Terminological Variations</i>	<i>15</i>
B. <i>The Category of ‘Speech’</i>	<i>16</i>
i. <i>Speech and ‘Speech’</i>	<i>16</i>
ii. <i>‘Speech’ and Action</i>	<i>17</i>
C. <i>Categories and Protection</i>	<i>18</i>
D. <i>The Open Debate of Public Affairs as the Core of Freedom of Speech</i>	<i>20</i>
E. <i>Internet-Specific Questions</i>	<i>22</i>
III. <i>Limitation of the Freedom of Speech</i>	<i>24</i>
A. <i>The Protection of Freedom of Speech in Different Legal Systems</i>	<i>24</i>
i. <i>The United States</i>	<i>24</i>
ii. <i>The United Kingdom</i>	<i>25</i>
iii. <i>The European Court of Human Rights</i>	<i>27</i>
iv. <i>The European Union</i>	<i>28</i>
B. <i>The Protection of Reputation and Honour</i>	<i>29</i>
C. <i>The Protection of Privacy</i>	<i>32</i>
D. <i>Instigation to Violence or a Criminal Offence and Threats Thereof</i>	<i>34</i>
E. <i>Hate Speech</i>	<i>36</i>
F. <i>Symbolic Speech</i>	<i>38</i>
G. <i>False Statements</i>	<i>39</i>
H. <i>Public Morals and Protection of Minors</i>	<i>40</i>
i. <i>The Protection of Public Morals</i>	<i>40</i>
ii. <i>Paedophilia</i>	<i>41</i>
I. <i>Commercial Communication</i>	<i>42</i>

IV. Freedom of the Press and Media Regulation	44
A. Freedom of Speech – Freedom of the Press	44
B. The Concept of the Media, the Rights Holders of the Freedom of the Press	46
C. Differentiated Regulation of Individual Media	50
D. Censorship and Prior Restraint	50
E. Special Privileges Awarded to the Media	52
i. The Protection of Information Sources	53
ii. Exemption from House Searches	53
iii. Investigative Journalism	54
F. The Principal Foundations of Special Privileges Awarded to the Media	54
G. Content Regulation of the Media	57
i. Protection of Minors	57
ii. Hate Speech.....	58
H. Media Pluralism.....	59
 2. The Regulation of the Internet and its Gatekeepers in the Context of the Freedom of Speech.....	65
I. Online Content Providers as ‘Media’	65
A. Introduction.....	65
B. Frontier, Architecture, Feudalism and Other Metaphors	67
C. Initial Hopes and the Reality of the Internet	70
D. Old Problems in a New Context	72
E. New Problems on the Horizon.....	74
i. A Decline of Professional Media?.....	74
ii. Social Fragmentation and Polarisation.....	75
iii. The Issue of Applicable Law	76
F. Regulatory Analogies and Starting Points	77
i. On the Freedom of the Internet	77
ii. Internet Services as the Subjects of the Freedom of Speech and the Press.....	79
iii. Applying the Limits of Offline Speech in an Online Environment.....	79
iv. Media, Platform and General Regulations with an Impact on the Internet	80
v. Internet Access as a Fundamental Right?	81
II. The Regulation of Internet Gatekeepers	82
A. The Roles and Types of Gatekeepers.....	82
B. The ‘Freedom of Speech’ of Gatekeepers and Algorithms	84
C. The Problems of the Media Survive in the Activities of Gatekeepers	87
i. Media or Tech Companies?	87
ii. Government Intervention	88
iii. Private Censorship	88

iv. Diversity and Pluralism	90
v. Impact on the Audience.....	90
D. Analogies in Media Regulation and Regulatory Ideas	91
i. ‘Editing’	91
ii. Previous Analogies in Media Regulation.....	92
iii. Recommendations of the Council of Europe	93
E. The Liability of Gatekeepers in General.....	94
i. The European Union.....	94
ii. The United States.....	98
3. Internet Service Providers.....	102
I. Introduction	102
II. Obligations of the Internet Service Providers Regarding Illegal Content	103
A. Blocking and Filtering	103
B. Self-regulation.....	105
C. Injunctions against Internet Service Providers.....	106
III. The Problem of Network Neutrality	109
A. Theoretical Questions	109
B. Regulation in the United States	111
C. Regulation in Europe.....	112
IV. Censorship by Internet Service Providers	113
4. Search Engines.....	115
I. Introduction – The Role of Search Engines in Online Public Sphere	115
II. Search Results as <i>Speech</i>	117
A. Search for Analogies	117
B. Search Results as Opinions	120
C. The Regulation of Search Engines.....	122
III. The Liability of Search Engines for Violations of Personality Rights	124
A. Search Engines as Publishers	124
B. Defamatory Search Results	126
C. Defamatory Autocomplete Suggestions.....	129
D. Other Violating Content.....	131
E. The Right to Be Forgotten	132
IV. The Manipulation of Search Results	137
A. The Issue of Search Engine Neutrality	137
B. External Manipulation.....	141
C. Internal Manipulation	141
V. Summary	145
5. Social Media Platforms.....	146
I. Introduction.....	146
II. Social Media Platforms and the Democratic Public Sphere.....	147
A. New Forms of Speech and the Expansion of the Public Sphere	147

B.	'Bubbles' and Other Psychological Effects of Social Media Platforms	149
C.	Social Media as a Public Forum	152
D.	'Cheap Speech' and the Traditional Media	154
E.	Tech or Media Companies?	157
III.	The Regulation of Platforms by Legislation.....	159
A.	Introduction.....	159
B.	Applicable Legislation	160
C.	Jurisdictional Issues.....	165
D.	Protection of Reputation	167
E.	Protection of Privacy	170
F.	Threats, Hate Speech and Other Violent Content Breaching Public Order	173
G.	Fake News	177
IV.	Private Regulation by Platforms	180
A.	Introduction.....	180
B.	The Legal Basis of Private Regulation: Contract Terms and Conditions	183
C.	Moderation and Private Censorship.....	187
i.	The Pros and Cons of Moderation	187
ii.	The Legal Status of Moderation – Possible Analogies	188
iii.	Community Standards and Codes of Conduct.....	190
D.	Editing and Content Diversity on Social Media Platforms	194
E.	Fake News and Private Regulation	197
F.	The Ideology of a Platform.....	199
V.	Summary	200
6.	Gatekeepers' Responsibility for Online Comments	202
I.	The Case of Online Comments.....	202
A.	Comments as 'Speech'	202
B.	Anonymity.....	202
C.	Moderation.....	204
D.	Basis of Legal Responsibility for Unlawful Comments.....	205
II.	The European Court of Human Rights Case Law Relating to Comments – Overview	209
III.	The Relevant Criteria in the Cases before the European Court of Human Rights	211
A.	The Content of the Comment.....	211
B.	Identifiability of the Author.....	212
C.	The Content Provider	213
D.	The Party Attacked	213
E.	The Effect of the Comment on the Party Attacked	214
F.	The Conduct of the Content Provider	214
G.	Sanctions Applied	215
H.	Summary	216

IV.	Main Criticism of the Jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights	216
A.	Liability of a Gatekeeper (Content Provider)	216
B.	Importance of the ‘Economic Service’	217
C.	Expecting Moderation.....	218
D.	Assessment of the Comment’s Content	218
V.	The Case of Social Media Comments	219
VI.	Summary	220
7.	The Future of Regulating Gatekeepers	222
I.	Introduction	222
II.	Possible Interpretations of Existing Legal Doctrines Concerning the Public Sphere	223
A.	Media Regulation.....	223
B.	The Law of Electronic Commerce.....	225
C.	The Law of Contract.....	225
D.	The Law of Public Forums.....	227
E.	The Chances of Finding a Comprehensive Regulatory Solution	229
III.	The Possible Models of Future European Regulation.....	230
A.	Transferring the US Model to Europe.....	230
B.	Preserving the Status Quo through Limited Regulatory Intervention (Weaker Co-regulation Model).....	231
C.	Strengthening Government Regulation (Stronger Co-regulation Model).....	235
D.	Prohibiting Private Regulation	239
IV.	Summary	241
	<i>Index</i>	243