



**University
of Basel**

Faculty of
Business and Economics



Public Event 2026 Who Controls AI? Private Power and the Politics of AI Governance

Wed, 12 August 2026 | 18.15 | WWZ Auditorium

The yearly Public Event is part of the Zaeslin+Maag
Program of Business, Law and Economic Policy



Who Controls AI? Private Power and the Politics of AI Governance

Wednesday | 12 August 2026 | 18.15 - 19.30

WWZ Auditorium | Peter Merian-Weg 6, 4052 Basel

Program

18.15	Welcome and Introduction Prof. Rolf Weder
18.20	Speaker Prof. Stephen Weymouth
19.05	Discussion with the Audience
~ 19.30	Apéro

This event is part of the Public Event series of the **Zaeslin+Maag Program of Business, Law and Economic Policy of the Faculty of Business and Economics of the University of Basel**. The series is designed to present insights from our colleagues at the partner universities of the Basel Summer School and to discuss their implications for business, policy making and the society with a broad audience.

A small number of private companies now control the advanced chips, cloud infrastructure, and AI models that governments increasingly need for economic competitiveness and national security. That creates a new political problem: states depend on technologies they do not fully control. In this talk, Prof. Stephen Weymouth argues that governments are trying to reassert authority over AI through different governance strategies. The United States is building selective alliances with other states and firms, while the European Union is using regulation and market access to project its authority beyond its borders. These strategies may protect national interests in the short run, but they are also fragmenting the global digital economy into competing blocs. The result is a new struggle over who controls AI: governments, firms, or the alliances between them.

The talk highlights a broader shift from multilateral cooperation to an era in which control over AI infrastructure has become a central feature of international politics.

Join us for a lively debate!

Register
here
until
5 Aug 2026

Prof. Stephen Weymouth | Georgetown University | **Speaker**



Stephen Weymouth is a Professor at Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business, where he serves as the Director of the Global Business Fellows Program. He studies the political economy of globalization and technological change, with current work on the digital economy and AI governance. Professor Weymouth teaches international business, global consulting, and courses on AI's implications for firms and society. In 2023, he published the book „Digital Globalization: Politics, Policy, and a Governance Paradox“ (Cambridge University Press).

In August, Professor Weymouth teaches the Master course “The AI Economy: Business Strategies and Policy Issues” of our Basel Summer School.

Prof. Rolf Weder | University of Basel | **Host**

Rolf Weder is Professor of International Economics at the University of Basel and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Zaeslin+Maag Program of Business, Law and Economic Policy.



How to find us:

Wirtschaftswissenschaftliche Fakultät
Peter Merian-Weg 6
4052 Basel
Schweiz

From train station Bahnhof SBB:

Approx. 7' walk

Tram | One stop on line 10 (direction Dornach) or line 11 (direction Aesch) to „Peter Merian“

Car | As there are no parking facilities for guests at the Jacob Burckhardt Haus, please use the nearby car parks at the postal office or the SBB railway station

[Google Maps](#)

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