

YEARBOOK

2024

ENGLISH



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EDITORIAL

Another year has come to an end with a long list of actions and projects at Fundación Vía Libre. As every year, it is overwhelming to summarise what has happened, but at the same time it allows us to visualise the immense capacity for action that the foundation has developed in recent years. None of this would be possible without a team of people who, day after day, put their heart and soul into devising more and better action strategies to build a fairer digital ecosystem.





By: Beatriz Busaniche.

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In the following pages we will present a good part of what has been done in one year, which is nothing more than a continuity of projects, ideas and initiatives that we have been systematically promoting for a long time.

We believe in a world in which technologies are at the service of communities and not used for exploitation, and it is in this sense that we insist on the development of projects that put every innovation in the hands of the people.

This year, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education of Córdoba and the Faculty of Astronomy, Mathematics, Physics and Computer Science (FAMAF) of the National University of Córdoba (UNC), we gave shape to one of the most ambitious projects we could have imagined: training several hundred middle school teachers in Artificial Intelligence tools. We did it and documented it. That work will be an input for everything we have in mind for the next 2025 AI agenda.

The data protection and privacy agenda brought us together once again throughout the year, with multiple challenges that forced us to take action and speak out, including the intelligence policies adopted by Javier Milei's government in its first year in office, the creation of an Artificial Intelligence Unit Applied to Security (UIAAS) headed by Patricia Bullrich, as well as multiple issues related to the management of the policies of the new libertarian administration. Access to information was weakened in this new phase, as was civil society's capacity to advance transparency and community development policies.



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2025 will be an election year and will once again bring us complex challenges to address: electoral policies, technologies in the voting process, use of AI in party propaganda, challenges on the role of the press, protection of civic space for debate are some of the issues opening up in the immediate future.

We cannot help thinking that all our work remains faithful to the ideas of Free Software and free access to culture, the issues that have called us from the beginning, so that the follow-up of World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), the coordination of actions at regional level with the Alliance for Fair Access to Knowledge and the development of copyright policies to foster a regional development of artificial intelligence are also part of our next projects.

Once again, it is essential to mention that none of what you will see in the following pages would be possible without a dynamic team committed to our mission and vision. This year we were joined by FAMAF undergraduate students who made an enormous effort to support the work of the AI ethics team, to all of whom we also extend our thanks.

Finally, we could not do all that we do without the invaluable support of our donors, organisations that have relied on our work for more than two decades. In particular, we would like to welcome the opening of the Buenos Aires Office of the Heinrich Böll Foundation of Germany, who always accompany us in our projects and will now also have a home nearby to further strengthen the ties that bind us together. The Ford Foundation, the Mozilla Foundation, the FAIR Network, the New Venture Fund, the Data Empowerment Fund, the Arcadia Fund, among other private contributors honour us with their support to Vía Libre's mission.





OUR WORK AREAS







Fundación Vía Libre is a non-profit civil organization born in Córdoba, Argentina, in 2000. Initially focused on Free Software, dissemination of knowledge and sustainable development, the Foundation reoriented its mission to broader issues such as the impact and influence of digital technologies on Human Rights, with special attention to social, economic, and cultural rights and civil liberties.

Our mission is to promote and defend fundamental rights in environments mediated by information and communication technologies, with special emphasis on the monitoring and development of public policies, public awareness on issues on our agenda, capacity building and the promotion of debates on technologies with potential impact on the exercise of Human Rights.



Free Software, Access to knowledge and Cultural Rights

From the ideas of Free Software we promote broad debates on the regulations of intellectual property rights based on the principles of free and open access to culture, science and technology. We understand cultural rights as central elements of public life, education and development, which is why we promote an agenda of debates, intellectual property reforms and the exercise of cultural rights based on freedom, access and full participation in culture.

Civil and political rights, electoral technologies

We understand that it is essential to ensure the integrity of the processes and the electoral rights of the citizenry. That is why, since 2003, we have integrated in our agenda the adoption of electoral technologies, including electronic voting machines, counting, and voter identification. That's why we support arguments and evidence to say #NoAlVotoElectrónico. (#NoElectronicVoting).

Privacy, surveillance and public security policies

Privacy is a fundamental right included both in Human Rights and in our National Constitution. Its full exercise is of special importance for the development of individual autonomy, the consolidation of citizenship and the development of personality. The full exercise of the right to privacy is essential for democratic societies, which is why we work to protect this right from both public and private sector surveillance. In this sense, we also monitor public surveillance policies, intelligence services, due process and protection of personal data in the digital environment.

Information Security

We have maintained for many years that the practice of infosec should be protected and promoted. We consider that the research, monitoring, reporting and mitigation of incidents and vulnerabilities are essential tasks in a society crossed by the use of digital devices and that these practices should never be considered as worthless debate on the new trends on the regulation of online or criminalized. Claiming the right to research, to repair, to study, to tinker and to report is essential in our times.

Social impacts of Artificial Intelligence

Every day more social processes and decisions are made by automated systems based on algorithmics. These processes are rarely transparent and imply impacts on the citizens rights. We work on monitoring, analysis and debate from ethics and Human Rights perspective to ensure the adoption of AI does not imply setbacks in the quality of life and the dignity of people.

Freedom of expression and Internet regulations

The arrival of the Internet enabled forms and possibilities of expression that no other media had enabled before. Freedom of expression, as a fundamental right, is one of the essential aspects to nurture civic space and the diversity of voices. However, situations related to discourse regulations, intellectual property policies or scenarios of high concentration of Internet platforms pose threats to the exercise of freedom of expression. We work to give an in-depth speech.



We have two transversal agendas to all our work:

- We build our projects with a perspective of integration and gender equality. We consider that the defense of Human Rights is only achievable in environments where plurality and diversity are reflected in the integration of all the aspects that constitute human societies without exclusion and free from all kinds of violence and discrimination.
- We understand that the preservation and promotion of responsible environmental policies are essential for the future of life in our planet. The environmental impact, the climate crisis and the goals of sustainable development should be considered as a priority, therefore we integrate this perspective into each of our projects.

What do we do?

At Vía Libre we dedicate our daily tasks to various activities, among which we can highlight:

- → Monitoring legislative processes and public policy decision making.
- → Incidence and public awareness on the main topics of our agenda.
- → Articulation with public and private sector, including colleagues from civil society to fulfill our mission.
- → We dialogue with the press and contribute to informed and evidence-based debate.
- → Research and analysis on the topics on our agenda.
- → Publications and production of documents with contributions to the public debate.
- → We organize forums and events for dissemination, education and training.
- → We develop international cooperation projects with organizations related to our mission.



ACTIVITIES

From classrooms in our cities to global forums, we were pretty much everywhere in 2024. The following is a summary of the highlights of this year's activities.



JANUARY

It is a month of rest and planning in Argentina. At Vía Libre, we focus on designing the strategies and actions we will carry out throughout the rest of the year. As a result, the number of activities and events significantly decreases. Es un mes de descanso y planificación en Argentina.

FEBRUARY

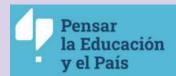
RIAA 6.0 LATAM

In this edition, Guido Ivetta presented the poster "EDIA: Lexical Methods for Exploring Biases from a Latin American Perspective" as part of the RIAA gathering held in Ecuador.



UNIPE Virtual Week

Beatriz Busaniche, president of Vía Libre, participated in the Virtual Week held at the National Pedagogical University. She delivered a talk titled "Dissecting AI," aiming to raise questions and offer possible answers to delve deeper into the concept of intelligence and its use in classrooms.



Semana Virtual
UNIPE 2024
EDICIÓN VERANO

Del 26 de febrero
al 1 de marzo

MARCH

Master's in Philosophy, History, and Danish Studies

Luciana Benotti participated in the Master's activities with a talk titled "Assessing Bias in Al: Who Decides How Language Models Discriminate?" This session was part of a space dedicated to reflecting on the impact of these technologies.



Danish Philosophical Society

Luciana Benotti participated in the opening of the Danish Philosophical Society's meeting with the session "Risks of Generative AI: Latin American Research Perspectives on AI." This space aimed to highlight regional approaches to this technology. You can read some reflections from the event in the article we published [here].







Data future lab

For the second time, we participated in the Data Futures Lab program organized by the Mozilla Foundation. This edition focused on the challenges of laws and licenses in acquiring data to train generative AI systems, with contributions from diverse global perspectives.



Advisory Body on AI at the United Nations

We contributed to the international debate on Al governance, emphasizing Latin America's representation, data ownership, and the proposal for a moratorium on the development of these technologies. This platform brings together global perspectives to address the ethical and regulatory challenges of Al.



Information Security in the World of Artificial Intelligence

An open session was held to discuss the security challenges in generative AI systems. It featured the talk "The Wrecking Ball:

Demolishing AIs" and the presentation of the platform "Quien Avisa No Traiciona" (QANT), a tool for anonymously reporting vulnerabilities, promoting the protection of digital rights.





Who Warns Does Not Betray

It is a platform launched at the end of 2023 for the anonymous reporting of vulnerabilities. Developed by the Vía Libre Foundation using a system based on GlobalLeaks, the site allows users to report, in a protected and anonymous manner, flaws in computer systems that impact people's rights—particularly when personal data is at risk. The information submitted to the site is fully anonymous, and no data that could identify the person reporting the vulnerability is recorded.

Learn more about QANT.



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APRIL

I Choose to Grow: Science for Argentina

A festival was held in which we participated, defending Argentine Science with talks, debates, experiments, and music to highlight local advancements and the need to ensure funding, employment, and protection for the scientific system. We joined teachers, researchers, students, and workers from the national scientific system.

Artificial Intelligence, Challenges for Bioethics

We participated in the Seminar-Workshop on Clinical Bioethics Updates held on April 19 in a hybrid format from the Provincial Maternity Hospital Brigadier Juan Bautista. Laura Alonso Alemany presented the talk "Emerging Ethical Issues in Artificial Intelligence Applied to Medicine," addressing the ethical challenges of using AI in the medical field.

WIPO - SCCR 45

We participated in the 45th session of the Copyright and Related Rights Committee of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in Geneva, Switzerland, in a hybrid format.

As members of the Access to Knowledge Alliance, we contributed to the debate on education, research, and memory, reaffirming our commitment to an inclusive agenda in the field of intellectual property.



The agenda was dominated by the two priority work topics: the Broadcasting Treaty and the agenda on Limitations and Exceptions to Copyright. Among other agenda items, notable highlights included a proposal from GRULAC on fair remuneration for performers in the digital environment, the application of paid lending in libraries, and the rights of theater directors, among others.

As part of the Alliance, we made several statements on the agenda topics, which are available in the <u>document</u> we submitted to the Secretariat and presented orally in the WIPO plenary sessions.







Personal Data in the Hands of the State

We organized a virtual talk on the management of personal data held by the State, addressing use cases, data breaches, and their impact on citizens' rights.

The event was streamed on Vía Libre's YouTube channel and marked the launch of the report "Management of Personal Data by the State."

FLISOL UTN - 2024

We participated in the 20th Latin American Festival of Free Software Installation (FLISOL 2024), held at the Tecnoteca San Francisco. Hernán Maina and Guido Ivetta presented the talk "Supercomputers Within Reach of All: Connect, Configure, and Bring Your Ideas to Life," exploring the possibilities of free technology to enhance creative ideas.

MAY

World Press Freedom Conference



We participated in the World Conference organized by UNESCO in Santiago, Chile. The event addressed topics such as challenges, governance, and decision-making around freedom of expression, with a special focus on Latin America and the building of a sustainable future in this area.





Informe Gestión de datos personales por parte del Estado

慈 Fundación Vía Libre



Report: Management of Personal Data by the State

This report analyzes the collection and management of personal data by the State in Argentina, examining its uses over time, the regulatory framework, and the reforms necessary to protect citizens' privacy. It highlights the increasing sensitivity of the information collected and the expanding use of this data, often in intrusive ways. The report emphasizes the need to limit the powers of state agencies in the collection, storage, processing, and transfer of data, as well as to ensure compliance with security measures required by both local and international regulations.



FITS

Margarita Trovato and Alexia Halvorsen offered the workshop "What Do You See When You See Me?" Building Personal Data Without Our Consent or Knowledge at the Social Innovation and Technology Festival (FITS). The event took place in a hybrid format, both in-person at the Metropolitan Design Center and online, and addressed the use of our personal data to create profiles and generate new information without our full awareness.



Science in Dialogue

We participated in the Science in Dialogue series, held at the Evita-Palacio Ferreyra Museum. The event brought together specialists and key figures to reflect on science and technology topics, with the participation of Laura Alonso Alemany from the Vía Libre team. The event was organized by the Secretariat of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Production, Science, and Technological Innovation, and CONICET Córdoba.

The Night of Ideas 2024

We participated in La Noche de las Ideas, organized by the Institut français d'Argentine – French Embassy, together with the network of French Alliances in Argentina and the Medifé Foundation. On Friday, May 17, Laura Alonso Alemany was part of the talk "Fault Lines: The Challenges of Artificial Intelligence in Culture and Education", alongside Dario Sandrone and Diego Fonti.

The event took place at the French Alliance in Córdoba.

JUNE

Launch of Vía Libre's Artificial Intelligence Website

In June, we launched a new Artificial Intelligence website designed to gather all information related to our tool EDIA: Stereotypes and Discrimination in Artificial Intelligence and its uses. The goal is to engage more people in exploring AI technologies, especially language models. It was also used during the HESEIA course.

https://ia.vialibre.org.ar





Curso HESEIA: Herramientas para la exploración de sesgos y estereotipos en IA



A summer extension course was designed and held from June to October 2024 in collaboration with FAMAF - UNC and the Ministry of Education of Córdoba. The initial goal of the project was to involve 200 teachers, but when registration opened, we received 700 applications in less than 48 hours.

Of the registered teachers, 370 met the initial requirements; in particular, they needed to be secondary school teachers in the province to implement our methods in their classrooms.

Nearly half of the teachers who started the course came from social sciences, while the other half were from exact sciences.

Additionally, a third of the teachers taught in cities other than where the course was held.

The course consisted of 6 in-person classes, totaling 36 hours of training. Furthermore, teachers completed 3 asynchronous activities (10 hours), as well as a final project that included 8 hours of classroom activities with students, supported by a university teaching assistant. You can watch the course's introductory video.

The first class was exceptional, as it took the form of a discussion panel with recognized experts titled "Exercising Citizenship in the Age of Artificial Intelligence." The panel included Jocelyn Dunstan, Rafael Calvo, Marcos Gómez, Laura Alonso Alemany, and Beatriz Busaniche as the moderator. The following classes were developed from a constructivist learning perspective, providing moments for reviewing prior knowledge, exploring, analyzing by the teachers, and reflecting.



en articulación con:



EDUCACIÓN



Dirección DE TECNOLOGÍA EN LA EDUCACIÓ









During the course, we worked with **EDIA**, a tool created by Vía Libre, which operates in San Francisco, Córdoba, and is primarily developed using open AI models, though it also compares with other models.

Additionally, thanks to the course and the implementation projects in classrooms, we reached 5,000 students from secondary schools in different towns across Córdoba, Argentina. In the <u>following video</u>, the results are narrated by some of the teachers who participated.



FAccT 2024

We participated in the seventh annual ACM FAccT conference, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from June 3 to 6, 2024, at the Othon Palace Hotel on Copacabana Beach. Laura Alonso Alemany and Guido Ivetta, from the Vía Libre team, attended the event, participating in various sessions. Laura Alonso Alemany spoke at the session "Grounded Frameworks for Auditing Public Sector Uses of AI in Latin America," organized by Derechos Digitales, while both participated in the CRAFT session "Towards Responsible Non-extractive AI Research" and demonstrated EDIA in the tutorial format "Evaluation of Bias for Experts in Discrimination, not in Computer Science."





Data Privacy & Digital Ethics

On Wednesday, June 12, the talk "Data Privacy & Digital Ethics: Judicial Challenges for Civil Society Organizations in Protecting Personal Data" was held, with Beatriz Busaniche, president of the Vía Libre Foundation, participating alongside Tomás Pomar, president of the Argentine Observatory of Information Technology Law (ODIA). The session analyzed compliance aspects related to personal data and privacy, exploring the moral issues associated with data, algorithms, and related practices, while seeking solutions from an organizational and ethical perspective.

2024 Mexican Summer School of NLP



2024 Mexican Summer School of NLP

Luciana Benotti, from the Vía Libre team, was invited to give a talk at the 2024 Mexican Summer School of NLP, held jointly with the NAACL 2024 conference, one of the most important NLP events in the United States. She also participated in the panel "Perspectives of NLP from Latin America" alongside Jocelyn Dunstan, Aide Paola Rios Rivero, and Helena Gomez.

The two-day event, held in June in Mexico City, aimed to introduce participants to natural language processing, promote national research, and discuss the future of the field at both national and international levels. The school included introductory workshops, research talks, and roundtable discussions.



FAIR Meeting

On Tuesday, June 25, Beatriz Busaniche delivered a presentation at the 3rd Regional Meeting of the AI Research Network. The network is a global, multidisciplinary, and feminist coalition of scholars, activists, and technologists who develop prototypes on the future of artificial intelligence and automated decision-making to accelerate gender equality through technology and innovation.

Data Science

Laura Alonso Alemany participated in the webinar "R&D Priorities in Data Science for Argentina" organized by the Sadosky Foundation. She was joined by Manuela Cerdeiro and Barbara Michella, where they discussed the advantages and disadvantages brought by the automation of natural language processing processes.

JULY

Science Education Week

Emilia Echeveste, from the Vía Libre team, conducted the workshop "What Do We Know About Artificial Intelligence and How Could We Integrate It into the Classroom?" as part of Science Education Week. The workshop was aimed at teachers and students from the programs in Exact and Natural Sciences.

The 2024 Science Weeks were declared of educational interest by the Undersecretariat of University Policies of the Ministry of Human Capital of the Nation, the General Directorate of Culture and Education of the Province of Buenos Aires, and the Ministry of Education of Buenos Aires City.



WiML Symposium at ICML

Luciana Benotti moderated the panel "Building Trustworthy AI: Data and Explainability" at the WiML Symposium, held in Vienna, Austria, as part of ICML 2024. The panel addressed ethical challenges in AI research and featured the participation of Asma Ghandeharioun,



Kamalika Chaudhuri, Emma Pierson, and Preethi Lahoti. The symposium, which promotes the participation of women in machine learning, provides a platform for exchanging ideas and networking among researchers and professionals in the field.





Towards AI Literacy: 101+ (Recuadro)

In July 2024, an article titled "Towards AI Literacy: Over 101 Practices, Perspectives, and Creative and Critical Purposes" was written and published in the collection Towards AI Literacy: 101+ Creative and Critical Practices, Perspectives and Purposes (Abegglen, S., Nerantzi, C., Martínez-Arboleda, A., Karatsiori, M., Atenas, J., & Rowell, C., 2024). This collection brings together practices, perspectives, and purposes from educators, researchers, and students on AI in education. The article was authored by Luciana Benotti and Nair Carolina Mazzeo and is available at the link.



Liberen al Eternauta

Beatriz Busaniche was invited by Acción Dev to discuss copyright law, raising awareness on the subject and highlighting the emblematic case of El Eternauta, a work created by scriptwriter Héctor Oesterheld. The talk addressed key questions such as: What is copyright, and how does it work? What is the social role of intellectual property? Why do heirs have control over the work, and how far does that control extend? Additionally, the limitations of copyright were discussed, along with what can and cannot be done with *El Eternauta*.





ICML

Luciana Benotti participated as a moderator in various presentations within the "Agents and World Modeling" session at the International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML). The globally recognized conference focused on advancements in machine learning, AI, statistics, and data science.







During the session, topics such as "Essential Openness for Superhuman AI" were discussed, exploring the need for open AI systems and their impact on security, as well as "Learning to Model the World with Language," which focused on the use of diverse language by agents to predict the future. The "CompeteAI" project, which analyzes the dynamics of competition between agents, was also presented, along with "GPTSwarm," which optimizes language agents as graphs. These studies proposed new perspectives on how AI can interact, collaborate, and compete within complex environments.



Exploring Stereotypes and Biases in Language Technologies in Latin America

In July 2024, the article "Exploring Stereotypes and Biases in Language Technologies in Latin America" was published in the journal of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM). Available here.







AUGUST

First Provincial AI Roundtable

Vía Libre was invited to participate in the First Provincial Artificial Intelligence Roundtable, organized by the Government of the Province of Córdoba, along with representatives from the government, private sector, universities, and civil organizations. From the foundation team, Laura Alonso Alemany and Matías Bordone participated. The roundtable, facilitated by the Institute of Digital Development of Latin America and the Caribbean (IDD LAC), took place at the Civic Center of the Government of Córdoba. The main goal of the meeting was to define and work on creating an agenda that positions Córdoba as a national and international leader in AI solutions.





Public Class

A public class was held, organized by the National University of Córdoba (UNC), in defense of public universities. During the event, Laura Alonso Alemany shared the conversation "Ethics in AI," Francisco Tamarit presented on "Current and Future Challenges of AI," and Rodrigo Quiroga discussed "AI Applied to Computational Drug Design."



AI, Human Rights, and Social Justice

Between August 20 and 23, the event
"Artificial Intelligence, Human Rights, and
Social Justice: Building Futures from Latin
America" took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
Luciana Benotti and Enrique Chaparro from Vía
Libre were invited to participate. The event
aimed to foster a critical reflection on AI
regulation in Latin America, closing knowledge
gaps, and promoting the participation of civil
society and academic organizations. The event
was organized by FAIR (Feminist AI Research
Network), Derechos Digitales, TEC Monterrey,
Tierra Común, LAVITS, and MediaLab/UFJR. It
included debate panels, group work, and the
creation of a collective writing.









Congress of the Nation

Vía Libre was invited to participate in the Science, Technology, and Productive Innovation Committee of the National Congress, where the regulation of artificial intelligence was discussed. Enrique Chaparro, from the team, participated along with other experts in the field. During the meeting, topics related to the research, development, and use of artificial intelligence were addressed, as well

as amendments to various Argentine laws, such as Law 25.467 on Science, Technology, and Innovation, the Civil and Commercial Code, the Intellectual Property Law, and the Data Protection Law.

You can watch the full video here.



Third season of LibreBaseRadio

On August 21st, the third season of LibreBaseRadio began. Matías Bordone shared insights about Vía Libre and the projects he has been working on. The program was streamed live on the <u>Casa Imaginada YouTube channel</u>.

Federal 'Cyberciruja' Meeting

The 2nd Federal 'Cyberciruja' Meeting took place at the Centro de Expresiones Contemporáneas (CEC) in Rosario. Cybercirujas aims to combat planned obsolescence and the indiscriminate extraction of private data through the use of free software, self-managed systems, and the dissemination of free knowledge.







SEPTEMBER

Cybersecurity and Self-care Workshop

A workshop organized by the Research Policy Team (EdiPo) of Revista Crisis took place. Matías Bordone, from Fundación Vía Libre and Librebase, was invited to participate. The free event aimed to share notions, tools, and challenges regarding the care of individual and collective digital identity. During the meeting, concerns about digital security in the current context were mapped, and strategies for prevention and risk reduction were developed.



Foro DemocracIA

The DemocracIA Forum was held, an event focused on analyzing the effects of artificial intelligence (AI) on democracies. Luciana Benotti, from Fundación Vía Libre, was invited to the panel "Responsible Innovation: Towards Better Practices in AI Development," where the discussion centered on how to balance technological innovation with the protection of citizens' rights. The panel addressed how to promote AI that is free of biases, serving diversity and social justice. Luciana participated alongside other key figures.



Global Gathering

Margarita Trovato participated in the event held in Portugal, which brought together networks, organizations, and digital rights activists from around the world. During the gathering, collaborative building activities, knowledge exchange, and debates took place.



PNUD Meeting

The meeting "Artificial Intelligence: New Skills and Horizons in the Future of Education in Argentina" was held, organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The event gathered experts to analyze the impact of AI on the labor market and education in Argentina. Laura Alonso Alemany



participated from Vía Libre in a space that included authorities, academia, and the private sector. During her intervention, Laura highlighted the importance of citizens determining when a system behaves in a beneficial or harmful way, and emphasized the need to encourage people to become creators of technology, not just consumers.



OCTOBER

Seminar Series: Al Regulation in Latin American Countries

From September to November, a seminar series titled "Reflections on the Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Teaching and Professional Practice in Information Science" was held. In this context, on October 3, Beatriz Busaniche, president of Fundación Vía Libre, participated in the panel "Regulation of AI in Latin American Countries" alongside Dr. Tobías J. Schleider. During her intervention, Beatriz addressed global asymmetry and analyzed Latin America's role in the development, use, and regulation of artificial intelligence. The seminar was streamed live on YouTube.

Heinrich Böll Meeting

Beatriz Busaniche, president of Fundación Vía Libre, participated in the panel "Recapitulating the Relationship Between the EU and Argentina: Democracy at Risk" alongside Cecilia Ales from CELS and Ariel Slipak from FARN. In this session, Beatriz addressed the impact of Science and Technology policies, Artificial Intelligence, and Information Security in the context of relations between the European Union and Argentina. This panel took place during the Argentine civil society visit to Brussels, organized by the Heinrich Böll Foundation.





13th Regional Free Software Conference

During the 13th Regional Free Software
Conference in Santa Fe, held from October 18th
to 20th, Pietro Palomin, Matias Bordone, and
Enrique Chaparro conducted the workshop
"EDIA: A Tool to Discover Bias in Generative
Systems." In this workshop, they introduced
the EDIA tool, shared their experience in the
HESEIA course, and discussed biases in
language models. The event brought together
the free software community to exchange
ideas and explore technologies such as Perl,
MySQL, Java, PHP, Python, and GNU/Linux.



NOVEMBER

Ekoparty 2024

Vía Libre participated in Ekoparty 2024, the leading cybersecurity event in Latin America, held from November 13th to 15th at the CEC in Buenos Aires. Enrique Chaparro took part in the panel "Biometrics, Personal Data, and Privacy." Meanwhile, Margarita Trovato delivered the talk "What Do You See When You See Me?" at the Freedom Village space, focusing on the legal protection of inferred data.







Iberamia 2024

Held in Montevideo, Uruguay, from November 13th to 15th, organized by the Faculty of Engineering at the University of the Republic. Luciana Benotti participated in the conference, delivering the opening keynote titled "Assessing social bias in Al: Who decides how language models discriminate?".

As part of this event, the Regional NLP School took place on November 12th, with Laura Alonso Alemany participating as both an organizer and speaker. The school, a collaboration between several Latin American institutions, covered topics such as NLP for underrepresented languages, BioNLP, sentiment and opinion analysis, hate speech detection, and the use of NLP tools in education.



AI and public polices

The "International Workshop on AI and Public Policies: Facing New Realities and Challenges" was held with the aim of highlighting the opportunities and risks that AI presents as it continues to be integrated into public policies. Beatriz Busaniche, President of Vía Libre, participated in the panel "Gender, Human Rights, and AI," held on November 15th, where she discussed the impact of AI on human rights, with a particular focus on gender. The event took place at the CAMPUS of Aula Tanque, Miguelete Campus, UNSAM (Av. 25 de mayo and Francia, San Martín).







3rd UNESCO World OER Congress

Beatriz Busaniche was invited to the 3rd UNESCO World OER Congress held in Dubai under the theme "Digital Public Goods: Open Solutions and Artificial Intelligence for Inclusive Access to Knowledge." The congress took place on Tuesday, November 19, and Wednesday, November 20.



This event explored how the implementation of the 2019 UNESCO Recommendation on Open Educational Resources (OER) can enhance global digital cooperation. Its main objective was to promote collaboration and innovation in the field of OER, contributing to the United Nations Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation and the Global Digital Compact.

Data Empowerment

Luciana Benotti and Laura Alonso Alemany presented at the event "Data Empowerment: Making Data and Al Work for Everyone," organized by the Data Empowerment Fund and the Open Data Institute. The goal of the event was to highlight the role of data empowerment in addressing some of the world's most pressing challenges. Fundación Vía Libre was invited to present the project "Community-Based Collection of Linguistic Resources for Bias Evaluation in Language Technologies," which they are developing with the support of the Data Empowerment Fund. This fund supports projects aimed at ensuring fair work, tackling the climate crisis, and promoting ethical governance of artificial intelligence.

DWERMENT

DECEMBER

América Abierta

Margarita Trovato participated in the international event "América Abierta" held at the Instituto Serzedello Correa in Brasília, where she presented the talk "¿Qué ves cuando me ves?", based on the report "Legal Protection of Inferred Personal Data."

"América Abierta" is an international event that gathers discussions on the research, publication, and use of open data related to topics such as transparency, access to information, open government, civic technologies, data journalism, digital government, accountability, and equity. The program includes both national and international activities, such as the Encuentro Abierto por una Región Abierta (AbreLatam), the Regional Conference on Open Data in Latin America and the Caribbean (ConDatos), the Brazilian Conference on Data Journalism and Digital Methods (Coda.Br), Semana Datos BR, and the Open Government Meeting.





Responsible Artificial Intelligence Workshop

Córdoba hosted the Responsible Artificial Intelligence Workshop, organized by FAMAF-UNC, CALMS from Imperial College London, and Fundación Vía Libre. The event aimed to bring together local students and researchers to share and discuss works on responsible artificial intelligence. During the gathering, there were talks by researchers and students, as well as a hands-on workshop in the afternoon.

This workshop was the result of the collaboration between FAMAF-UNC, the CALMS project from Imperial College London, and the HESEIA project from Fundación Vía Libre, with the support of KhipuX and NAACL.





School of Plurinational Public Management of Bolivia

Beatriz Busaniche participated in the virtual seminar titled "Sovereignty of Knowledge and Ethics in Artificial Intelligence," organized by the School of Plurinational Public Management of Bolivia. In the panel "Foundations of Artificial Intelligence Ethics," she addressed key topics related to knowledge sovereignty, emphasizing how it strengthens digital autonomy and promotes respect for local values, empowering individuals, communities, and countries in managing their own knowledge.





PRESS AND COMMUNICATION



PRINTED AND DIGITAL



- → Clarín | 'Why facial recognition is still suspended in the city of Buenos Aires: keys to understanding the uses and risks of this artificial intelligence' (read article). And 'In the case of personal data leaks, they demand more accountability from the state and discuss the current law.' read article.
- → Context | 'Reboot of **Buenos Aires facial recognition** plan fuels privacy fears' <u>read article</u>.
- → RedAcción | 'Why artificial intelligence could perpetuate gender inequalities and what is needed to avoid it' - read article.
- → Tiempo Argentino | 'Beatriz Busaniche: «Milei's alleged Google deal is a complete smoke and mirrors package»' read the article here.
- → El Resaltador | 'Cyberpatrolling is criminal intelligence', read article here.

- → Newsletter Brodersen DarkNews | 'What is the state doing with our personal data? Tough report warns about the latest leak', available here.
- → Diario Rio Negro | 'Who controls the data we don't give away, but which is used and affects us' read article.
- → Página 12 | 'Watch out: Patricia Bullrich cyber patrols' (<u>read article</u>), 'Tech giants want power' (<u>read article</u>), 'Internet under Bullrich's control: the keys to **illegal espionage**' (<u>read article</u>).
- → La Política Online: "Facial recognition makes headway in Latin American football stadiums", read the article here.







- → TeleSemana | "A major cyber-security breach has exposed much of Argentina's population's data", available here.
- → La Voz Del Interior | 'Learning about Al. More than 500 teachers from Cordoba will be trained in Artificial Intelligence', read the article here.
- → Chequeado | 'How platforms use our data to **train artificial intelligence** and what we can do about it' <u>read</u> <u>article.</u>
- → La Nación | 'How the cyber patrolling platform announced by Patricia Bullrich will work' <u>- read here.</u>
- → Revista Mate | 'Al-powered cyber-policing and over-criminalisation of drug offences' read here.
- → El País | Why Spanish needs Als of its own: 'ChatGPT has the values of a white, college-educated, West

- Coast white male', read the article here.
- → Diario Perfil | 'Patricia Bullrich's Artificial Intelligence Unit applied to Security: what are the concerns and warnings of specialists?' (read article) and "By decree, government restricts access to public information" (read article).
- → SwissInfo | 'Argentinian associations warn in Brussels that Milei is 'risky' for democracy' read here.
- → Acción | 'Artificial Intelligence: what's the point?' read here.
- → Digital Trends | 'We need artificial intelligence developed in Latin America' read here.
- → Alfa y Omega | 'The algorithm has no morals, only statistics', available here.











PODCAST AND RADIO



- → Cadena 3 | 'Expert on artificial intelligence and ethics warns of its challenges' <u>listen here.</u>
- → Radio Con Vos | 'Human rights advocacy takes on a new dimension with technology' <u>listen here.</u>
- → Radio Metro | 'Artificial Intelligence Applied to Security Unit' - watch here.
- → Radio AM750 | 'UIAAS: Interview with Beatriz Busaniche, president of

Fundación Vía Libre' - listen here.

- → Chequeado Podcast | 'Cyber-patrolling and artificial intelligence: what debates are raised by Milei's government measure?' - listen here.
- → Radio Wox Fm 88.3 | "Cyber patrolling: under the guise of prevention, they implement a persecution plan" watch here.
- → 1984 Today! | 'Episode 108: Beatriz Busaniche on **Digital Rights and Surveillance** in Argentina' - <u>available</u> <u>here</u>



TV AND STREAMING



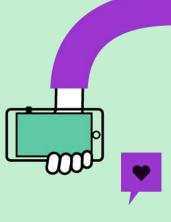
- → TV América | 'Milei and artificial intelligence' watch here.
- → Pensamiento Latinoamericano Streaming | Interview with Beatriz Busaniche - <u>watch here</u>.
- → RealPolitik | 'Milei wants to restrict access to public information as if Argentina were a monarchy' available here.



- → Radio con Vos Streaming | 'Restriction on the right to Access to Public Information' - available here.
- → Clix Moderno, Facultad de Comunicación UNC | 'Artificial intelligence, market and uses' watch here.
- → CNN | 'Elon Musk selected for Trump's administration' watch here.
- → Mostri TV | 'Which are the Constitutional limits in the digital sphere?' - watch here.







SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS

www.vialibre.org.ar www./ia.vialibre.org.ar/ www.derechodeautor.org.ar

- → <u>Instagram</u>
- → <u>Mastodon</u>
- → <u>X/Twitter</u>
- → Youtube
- → <u>Podcast: El Bestiario de</u> <u>Internet</u>

FUTURE PROYECTS



<u>Community compilation of linguistic resources for bias</u> <u>assessment in natural language technologies</u>

This initiative goes beyond the technical realm; it represents a commitment to socially conscious and inclusive AI. By positioning faculty and students as active participants in the evaluation of these technologies and the creation of datasets, we aim to bring AI research closer to the communities it affects and interacts with. The goal is to Latin Americanise this project, which marks a regional movement towards a more equitable development of AI. With strong networks and collaborative partnerships, we aim to contribute significantly to a fairer digital landscape. Also one of the major objectives accompanying this process is the virtualisation of the training course we are developing in the course of 2024.

Supported by Google Academic Research Awards, Data Empowerment Fund and Mozilla Foundation, the FAIR Network of A+ Alliance, as well as the partnership with the University of Cordoba.

The path of surveillance in Argentina: protecting civic space and strengthening the capacity of civil society

This project aims to strengthen regulation and accountability in the acquisition and use of spyware by public entities in Argentina and Latin America. Through an approach based on research, advocacy and capacity building, the project seeks to identify and mitigate the risks that these technologies pose to individual and collective rights.

The use of surveillance technologies, particularly spyware, by state actors has raised serious concerns about the protection of human rights in Argentina and other Latin American countries. The lack of an adequate regulatory framework and accountability mechanisms aggravates the risk of rights violations, especially against human rights defenders, journalists and activists.

In this context, it is crucial to move towards regulation that addresses both the threats posed by spyware and the particularities of federal countries. Supported by the New Venture Fund.





Fundamental rights in the digital environment

The Heinrich Böll Foundation of Germany makes a sustained contribution to the work of the Fundación Vía Libre in the defence of fundamental rights in the digital environment. Within the framework of the promotion of economic, social and cultural rights and the strengthening of democracy, the Foundation supports initiatives in areas such as privacy protection, personal data protection and public security, the development of artificial intelligence based on human rights principles and the promotion of appropriate technologies in electoral processes and political campaigns.



Institutional strengthening

The Ford Foundation supports the institutional work of Fundación Vía Libre, especially institutional strengthening and capacity building aimed at influencing international policy processes related to technologies and Fundamental Rights. Thus, in the coming years we will deepen our work in international policy, especially in the monitoring of processes of institutions such as the World Trade Organization, the World Intellectual Property Organization, the Internet Governance Forum, among others.

WIPO agenda follow-up

In cooperation with the Latin American Alliance for Fair Access to Knowledge and the A2K Alliance, we will be following intellectual property developments in WIPO's Copyright and Related Matters Committee. With support from American University we will carry out specific activities and events at WIPO to contribute to an informed debate on issues on our agenda, especially on the intersection of intellectual property and artificial intelligence.

In this framework we will also deepen our cooperation with organisations such as CENIA, the Centre for Artificial Intelligence in Chile, with whom we are developing joint work on the need for intellectual property instruments that enable the creation and development of language models by and for our regional cultural context.



AFFILIATIONS





Creative Commons (CC)

Creative Commons is a non-profit organization that promotes the legal exchange and use of content covered by copyright. For this, among other activities, it offers a set of standardized legal tools: Creative Commons licenses, which are based on copyright and serve to take the extreme position of "All rights reserved" towards a more flexible one, of "Some all rights reserved "or, in some cases," No rights reserved ". These licenses can be used in almost any creative work as long as it is under copyright and related rights, and can be used by both individuals and institutions.



Our World Is Not For Sale (OWINFS)

The "Our World is not for Sale" (OWINFS) network is a loose grouping of organizations, activists and social movements worldwide fighting the current model of corporate globalization embodied in global trading system. OWINFS is committed to a sustainable, socially just, democratic and accountable multilateral trading system.



Just Net Coalition

The Just Net Coalition (JNC) is a global network of civil society actors committed to an open, free, just and equitable Internet. Founded in February 2014, the coalition engages on topics of the Internet and its governance, with the goal to promote democracy, human rights and social justice. Its founding principles and objectives are contained in the Delhi Declaration.

Fundación Vía Libre has an ED Equivalence Determination validated by NGOSource.





<u>Citizen Initiative for the Control of the Intelligence System (ICCSI)</u>

The Citizen Initiative for the Control of the Intelligence System (ICCSI, in spanish) is a space for monitoring, promoting and promoting the effective operation of the control mechanisms over the intelligence system of Argentina. This initiative represents a response by civil society to the need to build a space committed to the democratization of intelligence agencies, in particular, through the promotion of policies aimed at improving internal and external controls of the system, whose effectiveness is of vital importance for the proper functioning of the rule of law and democratic institutions.



Permanent Observer of World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is the global forum for services, policies, cooperation and information on intellectual property. It is a self-financed United Nations body, created in 1967, with 193 member states and around 250 permanent observers.



Coalición por el Acceso al Conocimiento - A2K

A2K Coalition members represent educators, researchers, students, galleries, libraries, archives, museums, other knowledge users and creative communities around the world. Our individual missions are varied, but we all share a common vision for a fair and balanced copyright system. In addition, Fundación Vía Libre is part of the regional group of the Latin American Civil Society Alliance for Fair Access to Knowledge.





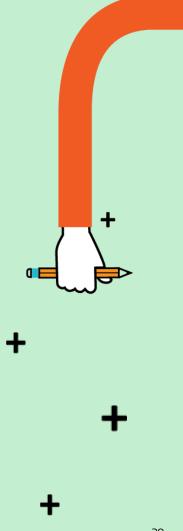


A+ Alliance y Red f<a+i>r

The Alliance <A+> for Inclusive Algorithms is a global, multidisciplinary feminist coalition, organised by Women@theTable and Tecnológico de Costa Rica (TEC), that brings together academics, activists and technologists prototyping the future of artificial intelligence and automated decision-making to accelerate gender equality with technology and innovation.

The f<a+i>r network is part of this initiative. Through local partners, it promotes the formation and strengthening of collaborative networks in feminist and decolonial knowledge production from the Global South. The Feminist AI Research Network (f<a+i>r) brings together experts willing to influence public policy, the development of smart technologies with feminist principles and action-research to make these technologies work for communities.

Fundación Vía Libre is part of the Latin American and Caribbean hub of the f<a+i>r network. With a repository of resources, spaces for debate, training and collaboration, it also serves as a node to make feminist Al research visible and as a permanent space for the exchange of knowledge, experiences and shared projects.





Thanks for sharing with us.

