The Contractual Override of Copyright Exceptions in the Copyright Legislations of the Arab Gulf States

The presentation will provide an overview of copyright exceptions as users’ rights in the copyright legislations of the six states of the Arab Gulf States. It will deal with reform of copyright legislations to introduce broad or narrow specific provisions protecting copyright exceptions from being overridden by contracts. It will assess and critically discuss article 31 of the new Kuwaiti Law No (75) of 2019 on Copyright and Related Rights that determines contractual agreements contrary to copyright limitations and exceptions null and void. It will also briefly consider the various options available for legislators in the Arab Gulf States including reliance on general rules of contract law and the application of competition and consumer laws. Finally, a comparative summary will be provided with copyright legislations that deal with the matter from various jurisdictions including Australia, United Kingdom and Germany and several suggestions and recommendations will be given to reform the law in the Arab Gulf States.