Computers, Language, and Law: Spotlight on Blind Spots

First ILLA Focus Workshop 7-8 September 2018

Co-organized with the Research Group “From Dogma to Data”, iCourts

University of Copenhagen, Faculty of Law, Udvalgsværelse 3 (Committee Room 3), Nørregade 10, DK-1165 Copenhagen K

Friday, 7 September

9:00 Coffee and Croissants

9:30 Opening and Welcome: Mikael Rask Madsen (Copenhagen)

9:45 - 10:45 Roundtable Discussion: Computers, Language, and Law.

Anne Lise Kjær, (Copenhagen), Friedemann Vogel (Siegen) Henrik Palmer Olsen (Copenhagen); Lawrence Solan (New York)

10:45-11:00 Coffee Break

11.00 - 12:30 Panel 1: What Computer-Aided Linguistic Research Can tell us about the Development of Law

Urska Sadl (Florence): Settled case law

Andreas Abegg (Zürich): The Language of Administrative Law: A Diachronic Analysis of Swiss Federal Dispatches and Court Cases since 1875

Jakob Holtermann and Anne Lise Kjær (Copenhagen): What ‘if’

Chair: Mikael Rask Madsen (Copenhagen)

Discussant Ralf Poscher (Freiburg)

12:30 -14:00 Lunch
14:00 – 15:15 Panel 2: From Dogma to Data

Christoph Möllers, Louis Rolfes, Alexander Tischbirek, Luisa Wendel (Faculty of Law, Humboldt-University Berlin); Quantitative Spotlights on Dogma: Corpus-based research into language and doctrine of the German Federal Constitutional Court

Jake Schlosser (Copenhagen): Mapping Concepts: explicit and implicit keyword lists

Henrik Palmer Olsen (Copenhagen): From Dogma to Data

Chair: Anne Lise Kjær; Discussant: Urska Sadl

15:15-15:30 Coffee Break

15:30 – 17:00 The View from Practice: Roundtable for Invited Practitioners

18:00 Conference Dinner (Chairs, Panelists, and Discussants only)

Saturday 8 September

9:30- 11:15: Panel 3: Repetitive Patterns in the Case Law of International Courts

Stanislaw Gozdz-Roszkowski (Lodz): Counting the Uncountable? Using Corpora and Computer Tools to Investigate Stance Quantitatively and Qualitatively. The Case of Legal Justification

Aleksandar Trklja (University of Vienna): The notion of linguistic precedent - a view from cognitive science and corpus linguistics

Julius Schumann (Vienna): Reasoning with Headnotes. A Planned Study on “Rechtssätze” in Austria.


Chair: Discussant:

11:15-11:30: Coffee Break
11:30-12:30 Panel 4: Computer-Assisted Methods in Legislation Research

Adam Wyner (Aberdeen): Interpretive Issues in an Annotated Corpus of Scottish Legal Instruments

Stefan Höfler*, Bernhard Waltl**, Georg Bonczek**, Kyoko Sugisaki*
* University of Zurich, ** Technical University of Munich: Legislative German: Unearthing Diachronic and Transnational Variations

Chair: Discussant:

12:30-14:00: Lunch

14:00-15:30: Panel 5: The Limits, Challenges, and Potentials of Computer-Assisted Research of Law and Language

Gianluca Pontrandolfo (Trieste): Connecting dots in corpus-based legal language research: a SWOT critical perspective

Sabine Erhardt (Bundeskriminalamt): Automatic Text Comparisons in a Forensic Context: Testing the Best Methodology

Anne Lise Kjær (Copenhagen): Blind Spots in Hindsight: Comparative Disciplinary Power of Computer Science, Law, and Linguistics

15:30-15:45: Coffee Break

15:45-16:15: Wrap-Up and Future Research: Anne Lise Kjær, (Copenhagen), Hanjo Hamann (Bonn), Lawrence Solan (New York), Urskal Sadl (Florence)

16:15-16:30: Announcement of the ILLA Conference at UCLA in September 2019: Frances Olsen (LA), and Dieter Stein (Düsseldorf)