Projects from the PhD workshop at the 37th Nordic Conference on Law and Information Technology*

The overall objective of the PhD-project is to examine general legal aspects of governmental use of AI-based surveillance. The legal aspects will be examined through the collaboration with computer scientists developing an academic prototype of a control and monitoring system of commercial marine fishing. The aim of the close collaboration with computer scientist could be described as twofold: Both to get a better understanding of the facts the law should be applied on, and to contribute to the development of a fundamental rights-compliant AI surveillance system.

Balancing privacy and safety in human-robot interaction
Mona Naomi Lintvedt (University of Oslo)

The conflicting use of thermal imaging in robotics: My research investigates ethical and legal concerns that rise from how the design and functionality of robots influence human-robot interaction. The project is focusing on the use of robots in the health and care sector, and on advanced robots using sensors and artificial intelligence (AI) to perform tasks and interact with humans. The aim of the research is to identify regulatory blind spots with regard to robotics and AI, and the implications for safety and autonomy in human-robot interaction.

Privacy and proportionality in Artificial intelligence
Bjørn Aslak Juliussen (UiT The Arctic University of Norway)

The Right to Be Forgotten in Spent Criminal Convictions: A European Data Protection Laws Perspective
Kamrul Faisal (University of Helsinki)

This study belongs to the field of fundamental human rights law in the online context, in particular, the right to privacy and personal data protection within the European Union legal framework. To be specific, the right to be forgotten (right to erasure) is outlined by article 17 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). I plan to produce knowledge concerning the right in the context of spent criminal convicts. The term 'spent criminal convicts' refers to individuals who committed a faux pas of criminal nature in their past, and their misdeed is already paid off through punishment, fines, and/ or by other ways. However, they are in a vulnerable position as their personal information is just one click away from an online search.

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* In no particular order

Balancing human rights through content moderation in the private sector: A test case for the legitimacy of private governance systems
Elizabeth Quinn (University of Copenhagen)

The project aims to examine the regulatory structures in place for content moderation from a human rights law perspective. In particular, it is questioned whether a human rights perspective could not only establish oversight and due process mechanisms for individuals but also potentially mandate changes upstream in platform structures and business models.

The regulation of drone autonomy: implications for the European civil airspace
Samar Abbas Nawaz (Peace Research Institute Oslo)

I plan to research the safety and security implications of autonomous civilian drones and their legal regulation from European perspective.

AI supported medical diagnoses and information rights of the patient
Marika Mäkinen (Lund University)

My project locates in health law and concerns the use of AI systems in healthcare and patient's information rights. The leading question is: what information should a patient be entitled to have when AI systems are used in healthcare as diagnostic tools? I will also examine whether the information rights of a patient should differ when AI systems are used in

healthcare compared to a situation where a) no assisting technologies are used at all or b) medical staff use other assisting technologies than AI.

Reconstruction of the conformity assessment in B2B data contracts
Nine Riis (University of Copenhagen)

The project examines the conformity assessment in B2B data contracts through comparative analysis of Danish and German law. Particularly, the project focuses on how data's special characteristics create issues for the current application of the conformity assessment and how these issues can be mitigated from a *de sententia ferenda* perspective.

To Process and to Protect: Discourses of Personal Data in the EU General Data Protection Regulation
Tuulia Karjalainen (University of Helsinki)

The article-based doctoral thesis explores European data protection law and in particular the GDPR from the perspective of effectiveness and effects on European digital environment at large. The research focuses on the dualistic objectives of the GDPR in protecting individuals and promoting free flow of data, with an interest in the relationship of law and digitalization, data power, and the interactions between different technology regulation initiatives in the EU. The workshop presentation will address sociotechnical imaginaries of data subjects in the European data protection law.

Aspects of power and human dignity in digitalized workplaces

Renate Iren Heggelund (University of Oslo)

The research foundation Fafo has presented several reports on digitalization in working life in recent years. The main findings are that increased digitalization will on the one hand increase the employer's ability to manage, control, instruct and examine employees' work performance, behavior and location. On the other hand, that digitalization can lead to more invasive ways for the employer to monitor and control employees. Digital systems that do not have control as a purpose may also allow for the ability to control the behavior of individuals. With this possibility comes a change in the balance of power between the employer and the employee unions.

Essential to this PhD project is how and to what extent workers can influence the digitization of one's own everyday life. The project also discusses which legal rules apply to the employers' processing of personal data about employees and what significance do these rules have for the possible displacement of power and weakened co-determination for employees. Opportunities and restrictions on the employer's access to control employees are also key issues.

Digital bouncers. A European common framework for online access rights

Berdien van der Donk (University of Copenhagen)

This project clarifies the interplay of European and national rules governing the user term-based relation between social media platform operators and their users. The research's foundation is a large-scale comparative study of online and physical access restrictions in four member states (DK, DE, IT, NL). From the results of the comparative study, a technology neutral common framework of access rights is drawn-up. The framework serves as a blueprint for a uniform approach to resolve access restrictions on social media platforms in the European Union.

Governance in the digital economy: assessing data privacy regulations and their impact on data commodification business strategies

Marianne Buffat (Copenhagen Business School)

This PhD project explores how data privacy regulations impact and drive data commodification business strategies in Europe and whether it is viable to promote alternate compliance models based on incentivising self-adhesion to rights-based values in order to supplement a struggling regulatory system.

Sustainable Rules-of-the-Road in Orbit - an analysis of current and future traffic governance in near earth space

Hjalte Osborn Frandsen (University of Copenhagen)

Traffic in Low Earth Orbit is increasing rapidly and so is the number of conjunctions between active satellites. Currently there is no international rules or industry standards for how operators should handle conjunctions and related procedures. This PhD project is about the potential paths to a future international regime for space traffic.

Legal facilitation of using AI in autonomous vehicles for road safety: liability in autonomous vehicles

Tahoora Heydari (University of Helsinki)

Autonomous vehicles (AVs) have a high potential to reduce accidents and enhance road safety. Although with improvements of artificial intelligence (AI) in AVs, the risk of accidents will significantly reduce, car accidents are inevitable in the future of these cars and an adopted legal framework is required to address the liability issues in accidents involving AVs.

Potential Responses to Disinformation on Social Media Platforms During Electoral Periods: Combating this Threat Under the European Union Regulatory Framework Lens

Ricardo Vásquez Dazarola (University of Copenhagen)

The PhD project aims to study responses against disinformation on social media platforms during election periods and their compatibility with EU law. This will be done from a multilevel responsibility perspective, where critical actors in the disinformation ecosystem will have special responsibilities or obligations to tackle this problem.

Processing of children's personal data for commercial purposes online

Ingvild Schiøll Ericson (BI Norwegian Business School)

My research is about the processing of children's personal data for commercial purposes. Online services are often seemingly free, but are financed by companies such as Google and Facebook through commercialization of personal data. The business model is about knowing as much as possible about the individual, in order to, among other things, provide targeted marketing and personalized services. The project seeks to clarify the legal basis for such data processing, with a specific focus on children's privacy.

How to create a system for the use of "trusted AI" in the public sector in Japan: from the legal and technical aspects

Sato Naito (Waseda University, guest researcher at University of Copenhagen)

There is increased interest in using AI in the public sector in Japan. However, there are concerns about privacy violation, AI incorporating prejudice, and considerable damages that can be caused by rights violations.

Denmark is one of the worlds premier digital countries and has successfully implemented AI at the municipal levels such as in healthcare and in confronting environmental issues etc., while respecting personal rights. In Japan, government and academics are interested in the EU, especially Denmark, in this issue, because the objectives of the EU and Japan are very close.

In this work, I will study the legal and technical aspects of AI use in the public sector of Denmark and identify which of those can be applied in Japan.

Video-based AAL technologies and balancing of interests

Maksymilian Kuzmicz (Stockholm University)

An aspect that is necessary to take into account, when introducing new technologies into society, is that there are bound to be

multiple interests at stake, which potentially come into conflict with each other, particularly from a legal perspective. For example, under the General Data Protection Regulation, an individual is able to gain access to the logic behind automated decisions that affect him or her, yet only to the extent that it does not interfere with any intellectual property rights to that technology (see Article 22 and Recital 63 GDPR). Another illustration concerns AAL technologies that have the potential to erode an individual's privacy rights while at the same time bringing significant benefits to society in terms of the reduction of treatment costs. In short, this thesis will examine how the law should balance interests within the context of Video-based AAL technologies.

The involvement of private parties in autonomous decision-making (ADM) systems used in personalised medicine (PM): violating the right to good administration in administrative proceedings?
Sarah de Heer (Lund University)

My project aims to assess how the right to good administration can be upheld when contracting authorities procure ADM systems to use in healthcare. My project is situated in administrative law and health law.

My research question is: 'To which extent does the involvement of private parties in ADM systems in PM violate the right to good administration in administrative proceedings, and which safeguards are needed to ensure future compatible use?'