15th Annual Legal Research Network Conference

Law and socio-technical change

7 - 8 September 2023

CALL FOR PAPERS

Invitation

The Faculties of Law of the Universities of Bristol, Budapest (ELTE), Ghent, Göttingen, Groningen, Lille, Roma Tre, Turku and Uppsala cordially invite doctoral and early career researchers to participate in the 15th annual Legal Research Network Conference on the 7th and 8th of September 2023. The conference will be hosted by the Faculty of Law of the University of Turku (Finland).

Aim of the Legal Research Network Conference

The LRN conference aims at creating a stimulating research environment and a common space for senior and junior scholars to present and discuss international oriented legal research. The conference provides for the opportunity for PhD students and early career academics to present their research and discuss their ideas with academics from the different Universities of the Legal Research Network. The conference language is English. The conference is aimed to be organized in-person only.

2023 Conference Theme
Law and socio-technical change

We are living amid abrupt technological and social changes. Advances in digital, artificial intelligence, and medical technologies, just to name a few, seem to be on the cusp of fundamentally affecting the social structures of our daily lives, disrupting established patterns of sociality, introducing new risks and opportunities, and forcing us to renegotiate key tenets of how we organize our societies. For example, generative large language models such GPT-4 seem to have attained a maturity that allows for their integration into administrative and business decision-making processes. The models could also disrupt information ecosystems and many existing industries. While the EU Act is still brewing, the models lack a clear regulatory framework.

The Legal Research Network conference invites papers focusing on what happens when law and new technologies collide. We would be happy to receive papers that discuss encounters between, for example, artificial intelligence, social media, robotics, medical discoveries, human enhancement, and law. However, the framing of the call should be understood broadly.

Sessions
The paper sessions will run as paper workshops in groups of 6–8 participants where the participants actively discuss the papers and help the authors to improve them. The participants are required to read all the papers discussed in their group. Further information on group composition and on how the papers are distributed will be provided in the email confirming participation.

Enrolment is limited to 20 participants. Participants will be selected based on fit with the call theme.

Submission and deadlines
Doctoral and early career researchers interested in participating are invited to submit an abstract (max. 400 words) and a description of their PhD project (max. 250 words) by **June 2, 2023**.

The selected participants will be informed by June 15, 2023.

The papers should be article or chapter drafts of 5000 to 8000 words in length (excluding footnotes and references). The deadline for paper submission is **24 August**. We will provide further instructions on submission in the email confirming participation.