

Third Edition

LAWTOMATION DAYS

computing the law, regulating the algorithm
the transformative power of digital ecosystems

26-27 September 2024
IE University – Madrid



CALL FOR PAPERS

Computing the law, regulating the algorithm: the transformative power of digital ecosystems

In 2021, IE University Law School envisioned a new platform for cutting-edge research, teaching, training and dissemination on the impact of automation on the law, individuals and society. In 2022, the IE **“Lawtimation” Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence** was established to convene scholars from various disciplines to explore the opportunities and challenges presented by technological advancements across numerous legal domains and sectors.

The inception phase of the Centre culminated in the organization of the first edition of the IE **“Lawtimation Days”** in September 2022. More than one hundred researchers, practitioners and students joined us in Madrid to ignite a scholarly yet accessible conversation on the relationship between law and automation, as well as the effects of algorithms on constitutional values, human rights, workplace practices and legal remedies. In 2023, the second conference edition hosted an even larger group of speakers presenting their works on the promises and perils of automated decision-making (ADM) and artificial intelligence (AI).

Much change has happened in recent years. Large segments of today's society are automated, at least in part, raising the need for further cross-disciplinary discussions. Hence, **we are delighted to announce the third edition of the “Lawtimation Days” conference.**

This year, we aim to ideally “square the circle”. The key theme of the conference is the transformative power of digital ecosystems. We want to explore how technological advancements can be harnessed to create more sustainable, inclusive and ethically grounded environments. The quest for deeper analyses should prompt participants to **engage in cross-disciplinary research**, in line with the spirit of our Centre. Thus, we invite scholars to explore connections between different fields and methodologies to foster a holistic understanding of the issues at hand, and possibly challenge prevailing narratives. Ultimately, the goal is to provide a space for thought-provoking research that can drive forward the agenda.

On the one hand, the conference intends to explore how law can pursue the goal of automation in fields such as **consumer law, criminal law, labour law, public law, private law and trade law**. On the other, it aims to provide a constructive assessment of the multiple regulatory and legislative initiatives adopted to govern the digital world, including instances of institutional activism such as the AI Act, the DMA, the DSA, the Data Act, the AI Liability and Product Liability Directives, the Data Governance Act and the Platform Work Directive.

This conference edition aims to inject a much-needed dose of realism into a world grappling with contrasting attitudes—hype and alarmism—to shed light on the effectiveness, pitfalls and potential areas for improvement in existing legal instruments. From a methodological standpoint, we emphasize **critical approaches to broaden the discourse and incorporate perspectives often overlooked**. We invite proposals that not only provide insights into recent developments but also critically engage with policy, legal, judicial and business advancements. We encourage contributions that explore the impacts of automation on democracy and the rule of law, fundamental rights, the environment and markets.

The two-day conference will feature inspiring keynote speeches and panel discussions, as well as ample opportunities for networking and exchange across disciplines and generations, including during social events. Over the past years, participants have identified the “Lawtimation Days” as a **flagship initiative in the academic community** for the quality of contributions, harmony of the environment and richness of the connections.

Themes

We welcome submissions that address, but are not limited to, the following themes:

Policy and legal implications: Analyzing the consequences of automation on policy drafting, legal frameworks and judicial proceedings.

The digital work environment: Exploring how digitization shapes business practices and workers' experiences, including its impact on individual and collective labour rights.

Transformation of the internal market: Exploring the impact of automation on competition, consumer rights and the functioning of the internal market.

Democratic governance: Examining the role of digitization in shaping democratic processes, citizen engagement and accountability mechanisms.

Societal and ethical considerations: Investigating the societal and ethical dimensions of new technologies, including their implications for fairness, privacy and social justice.

Environmental sustainability: Assessing the environmental consequences of the digital transition and its potential to contribute to sustainable development goals.

The future of academia: Delving into how EdTech and GenAI are reshaping academic practices, research methodologies and the dissemination of knowledge.

These topics may be approached from various angles, such as:

- Oversight, transparency and accountability
- Fairness, bias and discrimination
- Algorithms and AI systems in workplaces
- Economic, social and environmental implications
- EU law and the twin (green and digital) transition
- The impact on human and social rights
- The global, regional and national race to regulate technologies
- Data protection in action and the notion of harm
- AI liability/product liability
- Risk-based approaches in regulation
- The role of AI and ADM in ensuring more equitable justice systems
- The contribution of AI to social justice
- Personalization, vulnerability and fragmentation in consumer markets
- Generative AI and large language models
- AI in the corporate boardroom

Keynote speakers

- **Omri Ben-Shahar** University of Chicago Law School
- **Lilian Edwards** Newcastle Law School
- **Oliver Goodenough** Vermont Law School
- **Uma Rani** International Labour Office (ILO)
- More speakers to be announced soon

Submission process

Two types of submission are possible: **individual abstracts** and **fully formed panels**. Submissions must be written in English.

- Interested participants in individual capacity are encouraged to submit an abstract of no more than 500 words.
- Proposals for fully formed panels should include between four and five presentations by participants who have agreed in advance to give their presentations. The panel chair can also be a speaker. Submitters will be asked to provide the title and a 500-word description of the panel. They should also identify the names and email addresses of all panel participants. A title should also be provided for each presenter's contribution.

The deadline for submission is **Saturday, 15 June 2024**.

[Click here to submit your proposal](#)

Selection criteria and review process

Submissions will be considered by the members of the IE “Lawtimation” Jean Monnet Centre, based on an assessment of their **quality, relevance** to the call's themes, and the need to cover a diverse range of topics representing a **variety** of perspectives and backgrounds.

Final decisions on acceptance will be notified by Monday, 15 July 2024.

Selected authors will be asked to submit a **draft** (paper, extended abstract or presentation) by Friday, 13 September 2024 for circulation among the speakers and panel chairs.

Publication plans will be discussed at the end of the conference. However, we welcome proposals and papers intended for publication elsewhere.

Relevant dates

- Abstract submission: **Saturday, 15 June**
- Notification of acceptance: **Monday, 15 July**
- Registration by participants: **Thursday, 1 August**
- Submission of materials: **Friday, 13 September**
- Conference dates: **Thursday and Friday, 26 and 27 September**

Event venue

The conference will take place in **Madrid, Spain**, at **IE University**.

To make the most out of this exciting event, the conference will be held **fully in-person**.

Conference format

Thematic sessions will be organized with a cross-disciplinary approach to stimulate reflection and comparison.

Presentations will be organized into chaired panels and the presentation time for each participant will be 15 minutes (12 minutes if there are five participants).

There are **no registration fees**. The costs for meals will be covered by the organization. A no-show-up policy will be enforced.

Participants are kindly requested to arrange their travel and accommodation independently, ensuring their presence at the conference venue during the scheduled dates.

Organizing committee

Convenors: Francisco de Elizalde, Antonio Aloisi, Federica Coppola, François Delerue, Guadalupe Martínez, Yuliya Kaspiarovich.

If you have any questions, please contact us at Isabel.Garces@ie.edu

About the Centre

The Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence for Law and Automation (Lawtomatic) is a focal point of competence and knowledge on the impact of automation on the law that promotes excellence in teaching and research. The Centre develops synergies between legal experts and data scientists, in an open dialogue with policymakers, civil servants, practitioners and society at large. It also aims to generate knowledge and insights that can support policymaking. The Centre is co-financed by the European Commission, under the Erasmus+ programme.

lawtomatic.ie.edu

About IE University Law School

IE University Law School sets a global standard of vigorous, contemporary legal education and research. Our faculty members, from many different countries and as diverse and internationally minded as our student body, have been educated in globally recognized universities and demonstrate the best expertise in their respective fields. The research we conduct aims to have a lasting impact on the development of all the disciplines related to law. IE Law School's faculty conducts rigorous research that is also significant for institutions, legal services and companies, and which feeds our robust curricula.

ie.edu/law-school

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