

Seminar Artificial Intelligence and Law. Digital Constitutionalism, Risks and AI

Fact Sheet

1. Overview

Summary

This seminar will explore the relationship between AI, risks, and digital constitutionalism. Participants will work in teams (2-3 students) to write papers and prepare presentations on risk assessment and fundamental rights. Through a mix of written and oral assignments, students will gain a deeper understanding of the role of digital constitutionalism in shaping AI governance.

Learning Outcomes:

- Understand the core concepts of digital constitutionalism and its relevance to AI;
- Identify key risks for fundamental rights in the age of AI;
- Analyse risk-based approach based on constitutional rights;
- Develop critical thinking skills regarding the regulation and governance of AI;
- Explore real-world case studies of risk assessment to apply theoretical knowledge to practical scenarios.

2. Topic

Students will work on risk assessment and fundamental rights in digital policy and the connection with digital constitutionalism.

Digital constitutionalism refers to the principles and frameworks that govern the digital environment, ensuring that fundamental rights and freedoms are protected in the digital age. At its core, digital constitutionalism aims to understand how to apply constitutional principles—such as the rule of law, democracy, and human rights—to the digital realm. This involves establishing norms and regulations that safeguard individual rights against the backdrop of rapid technological advancement. Risk assessment is a crucial component of AI regulation and it is increasingly connected to the protection of fundamental rights. It involves identifying, analysing, and mitigating potential risks associated with the use of AI technologies. These risks can range from privacy violations and data breaches to algorithmic bias and discrimination. This seminar will delve into the intricate relationship between AI, risks, and digital constitutionalism. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of how digital constitutionalism shapes AI governance, particularly through the lens of risk assessment.

3. Logistics

Participants

The number of participants is limited to maximum 20 students. Successful participation gives 5 ECTS points. In order to participate in the seminar, law students must have basic knowledge of

constitutional and human rights law. Knowledge of law and technology is positively assessed in the phase of selection. Master students have priority.

Registration

All registrations will be considered, and selected students will be confirmed promptly. If participation is confirmed, withdrawal from the seminar is no longer possible.

Please send your registration to both gdegregorio@ucp.pt; sekretariat.ziv.rw@unibe.ch.

The following information must be provided with the registration:

- Name
- Address
- Matriculation number
- Number of completed semesters
- Desired proof of academic achievement (Bachelor or Master program, Major or Minor)

Written papers

The participants will work in groups on different topics. Each group consists of 3-4 students. Together they will work on a joint paper (6000 words, including footnotes). Regarding the formal requirements and the evaluation criteria, reference can be made to the corresponding guidelines and regulations of the Law Faculty (available at: https://www.rechtswissenschaft.unibe.ch/studies/study_programs/bachelor_of_law/index_eng.html).

Oral presentation

All groups will present their paper in an oral presentation. The presentation should be approximately 45 minutes long and followed by a 15-minute discussion. Students are expected to participate actively—the seminar is not a lecture. Participation in the discussions will be included in the evaluation. Each group must submit a PowerPoint presentation.

Language

The language of the seminar will be English. Please note that the level of spoken English during the presentation will not be evaluated.

Evaluation

Students are evaluated individually, but it is also considered whether the groups have worked as a team and whether a collaborative effort is evident.

4. Schedule

9 September 2024: Information Session

14:30-15:30, on Zoom

Professor De Gregorio will give general information about the seminar and answer questions. Please note: Participation in the information session does not automatically mean registration for the seminar.

10 September 2024: Start of the registration period

Students who would like to participate in the seminar can register per e-mail. For further information see Registration above.

23 September 2024: Kick-off session

16:30 – 18:00, Room: will be announced at the Information Session

The seminar will start with an overview of the challenges raised by AI to fundamental rights. The professors will introduce the students to the different topics they can choose from. Furthermore, the teams are formed and the next phases discussed.

15 October 2024: Outline presentation

09:00 – 17:00, Room: will be announced at the Information Session

Each group will meet in class and discuss selected cases and the outline of the paper.

9 December 2024: Submission of the paper and presentation

Each group must send their slides presentations and seminar papers to the following e-mail address: gdegregorio@ucp.pt; sekretariat.ziv.rw@unibe.ch.

10 December 2024: Paper Presentation

09:00 – 17:00, Room: will be announced at the Information Session

Each group will give an oral presentation about their topic and present their results, which is followed by a short discussion with all seminar participants.