Welcome to the first newsletter of the COHUBICOL research project. We aim to share relevant news on a monthly basis, highlighting core output, research blogs, publications, upcoming keynotes and presentations, and references to other relevant research projects and publications. Every month, one of our researchers will share their current research - this first issue of the newsletter our computer science postdoc Manuel Sabin (Radboud University) describes their research in theoretical computer science and their work on the cusp of science and society.

Philosophers' Seminar on Interpretability issues in Machine Learning in the context of legal tech
On 3-4 December COHUBICOL is organising an invitation-only seminar with lawyers, philosophers, computer scientists and others, e.g. Frank Pasquale, Julie Cohen, Elena Esposito, Patrick Allo and many others. The format targets a slow science exercise, where active listening is more important than 'scoring' and participants have studied all the papers in advance. For that reason we are not streaming or recording the event. You can find the abstracts here, and we hope to publish the papers in the first issue of the new *Journal of Cross-Disciplinary Research in Computational Law* (CRCL).

Journal of Cross-Disciplinary Research in Computational Law
Last week we launched the website of the new *Journal of Cross-disciplinary Research in Computational Law (CRCL)*. In the coming year we will be publishing a series of *online first* articles that will form the first issue of CRCL (vol. 1 no. 1) to be launched in the fall of 2021. CRCL is genuinely cross-disciplinary, aiming to foster engagement between legal theory, theoretical computer science, and philosophy. To achieve this, the articles follow a unique format: the main text is followed by a reply from an expert from 'across the aisle' who discusses the topic from their disciplinary standpoint. The author then replies, creating a true dialogue between fields.

The first article 'Legal Technology/Computational Law: Preconditions, Opportunities and Risks' is written by Wolfgang Hoffmann-Riem, former Justice of the German Constitutional Court, with a reply by Virginia Dignum.

Update on staff research:
Manuel Sabin is currently working on a project in the emerging area of Fine-Grained Complexity Theory, attempting to find connections between the field's core assumptions and more classical assumptions on the computational complexity of classes such as NP. More concretely, they are working on proving 'Karp-Lipton

Theorems' within Fine-Grained Complexity to connect the field to classical questions about the average-case complexity of the computational problem SAT.

Manuel is also working on a project exploring whether the goal of introducing participatory methods to Machine Learning, while laudable, can instead sometimes serve to introduce hurdles for community participation without actually providing enough flexibility for members of those communities to express their most pressing concerns: while participatory methods are meant to shift some power back to communities most affected by a technology, a superficial understanding of this power could instead relegate 'participation' to 'busy work' in ways that stymie affected communities, all while not questioning the actual development process of an algorithm or its use-cases. This can give the appearance of participation while not actually shifting any power, and thus raises the question of what nuance is needed to stay true to the equitable goals of the fields that these participatory approaches are being imported from.

Manuel is also organizing the Resistance AI workshop for the NeurIPS 2020 Machine Learning conference next month. This workshop focuses not on the vague question of how Machine Learning can be socially 'good', but on how machine learning shifts power, and how the field can work towards empowering communities most (negatively) affected by decision-making algorithms.

Finally, Manuel is working in the early stages of one of COHUBICOL's core projects, developing a vocabulary for 'legal computation'. The hermeneutics developed throughout this running project will allow us to better create, critique, and reveal assumptions of the technologies that have been rapidly emerging at the nexus of Law and Computer Science.

Research Blog
- ['Technological Mediation vs. the Rule of Law'](#) by Laurence Diver

Publications and drafts
- Tatiana Duarte, ['Google and Apple Exposure Notifications System: Exposure Notifications or Notified Exposures?'](#) LawArXiv. November 5.
- Laurence Diver, ['Digisprudence: The Design of Legitimate Code'](#) LawArXiv (forthcoming in *Law, Innovation and Technology* 2021)

Presentations
- Mireille Hildebrandt's public lecture on *Legal Effect in Computational Law* in the series *Shifting Powers due to Algorithms and AI* organised by the 'Normative Orders' Research Center of Goethe University Frankfurt. For slides, click [here](#).
- Public seminar *Légiférer le risque* on 'Risk reduction as a legal obligation' with Mireille Hildebrandt and Boris Vallaud, member of the National Assembly of France. To (re)watch, click [here](#).
- Laurence Diver's presentation at the conference on the Philosophy of Human-Technology Relations 2020 (PHTR), 'Technological Mediation vs. the Rule of Law'. To (re)watch, see the blog post [here](#).

You are receiving this newsletter because you subscribed to it on the website of COHUBICOL, which stands for the ERC ADG project 'Counting as a human being in the era of computational law'

To receive our monthly newsletter, send an email with the subject 'subscribe' to newsletter-subscribe@cohubicol.com.
To unsubscribe, send an email to newsletter-unsubscribe@cohubicol.com.

www.cohubicol.com is our website | follow us on twitter @cohubicol1