



### **Journal of Cross-Disciplinary Research in Computational Law ([CRCL](#))**

- In March 2021 a new article will be published online first: 'Hermeneutical injustice and the computational turn in law', by COHUBICOL legal researcher [Emilie van den Hoven](#), replied by computer scientist [Ben Green](#). The Journal is Open Access, if you subscribe you will be updated for new content.
- Also, check out our editorial board, which demonstrates the kind of cross-disciplinary engagement we aim for.

### **Update on staff research**

**COHUBICOL postdoc researcher [Laurence Diver](#)** is currently finalising the manuscript for his monograph *Digisprudence: Code as Law Rebooted*, to be published by Edinburgh University Press later in 2021. The book sets out a theory of code legitimacy, arguing that the basic formal standards that we expect from legal norms ought to be transposed into code-based norms if the latter are to be acceptable in a democratic society. His more recent work builds on the foundations of the book, further investigating how the structuring of our ecology by technology can (and cannot) facilitate legality and the rule of law, very much in line with the themes of COHUBICOL. For example, he has recently explored [the notion of delay in \(legal\) technologies](#), and how it is assumed to be undesirable by those who focus unreflectively on the notion of 'efficiency', this despite the very necessary role temporal spaces play in facilitating law-as-we-know-it. His current work considers the nature of legal speech acts, and what happens to these when they are purported to be effected by code. This raises questions about performance versus performativity, which in turn highlights the role played by the design of the programming languages that effect that performance. Some of these themes will be reflected in COHUBICOL's next [philosophers' seminar](#), taking place this November.

### **Research blog**

There is a new blog out on 'Robust AI, robust law and robust legal technologies', which will be published in three parts. [Part I on 'robust AI'](#) explains some the constraints that 'make for' resilient, reliable, robust and responsible AI, noting that robust has a 'technical' meaning within the domain of computer science. Part II will explain how the rule of law provides law with a robustness that is key to both democracy and fundamental rights protection. Part III will address the confrontation of robustness in law and AI where it comes to 'legal technologies' such as legal search and prediction of judgement on natural language processing (NLP), a particular type of AI.

For salient technical background of 'robust AI' please check the website of the [Lorentz workshop on Robust AI](#) held at Leiden University on 11-14 January 2021 (where Hildebrandt presented on Legal Protection by design, see the recordings [here](#)).

### **Presentations**

*Upcoming:*

- On International Women's Day our PI will be doing a live podcast with Tatiana Löttiger, you can register [here](#)
- March 16 Mireille Hildebrandt will have a 'fireside' chat with computer scientist [Richard Buckland](#) of University New South Wales (UNSW) in Sydney on why law matters for computer science education and research, you can register [here](#). Please note that 'fireside' in Sydney is breakfast in Europe (9-10AM CET).

*Past:*

- Hildebrandt presented at 'Law and Computation. An Algorithm for the Rule of Law and Justice?', a Northwestern University Academic Symposium in Chicago on 5 February 2021, see [here](#)

**Added resources to the website:**

- Under [further resources](#) we have added an [interesting resource](#) that provides an overview of 'legal research software' with various subdivisions, such as regional, business or government, open source or commercial etc.
- Under [bibliography](#) we added a video recording on the nexus of science and art of [Johanna Drucker](#) 'Technologies of Text: from printed page through digital age', speaking at CU Boulder Libraries in 2011, giving a highly relevant [performance](#) on what text and paratext does and do. Normally we add books, journal articles, chapters and reports relevant to COHUBICOL. The bibliography has been made accessible via a public ZOTERO database, which enables anybody to access and use these resources (though pdfs are usually not linked due to copyright restrictions. Other references added are: [Designing in Dark Times: An Arendtian Lexicon](#) by Virginia Tassinari, Clive Dilnot and Eduardo Staszowski, Emily M. Bender's "[Climbing towards NLU: On meaning, form and understanding in the age of data](#)" and Frank Pasquale's already seminal [New Laws of Robotics: Defending Human Expertise in the Age of AI](#).

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