



## **Publication of the project findings concerning the first Key Intermediate Goal**

We have just released the first iteration of the COHUBICOL working paper on 'text-driven normativity and the Rule of Law', which is dedicated to the project's first Key Intermediate Goal: the identification of the kind of legal protection that is made possible by text-driven normativity. Simultaneously, we have released the 'legal vocab', a set of foundational legal concepts that ground modern positive law. The legal vocab can be assessed separately [here](#), but it has also been integrated in the working paper, which can be found [here](#). All comments are welcome onsite.

## **Welcoming new staff**

We are delighted to welcome two new postdoctoral researchers who have joined the COHUBICOL legal team. [Pauline McBride](#) is a Scottish solicitor and legal researcher specialised in intellectual property and information technology and her interests related to the intersection of law and technology, theories of legal interpretation, and the impact of artificial intelligence. [Desara Dushi](#) has served as lecturer at Epoka University and as advisor to the Ministry of Justice of Albania. Her main interests are related to the intersection between law and technology, human rights in the digital age, criminal justice, justice reforms, online child protection and internet governance.

We also welcome [Eva D'hondt](#) as an affiliate researcher. Eva is a computer scientist with a background in both linguistics and natural language processing. She will be supporting the CS team with various task.

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

We have a series of submissions under review, based on the [COHUBICOL seminar on the issue of multi-interpretability in machine learning and its relevance for 'legal technologies'](#). They will be published online first in the course of this year.

## **Philosophers' Seminar 2021: The Legal Effect of Code-Driven 'Law'?**

In November COHUBICOL will bring together lawyers, computer scientists and philosophers to engage in an in-depth study of rule formalisation and self-execution (e.g. using blockchain or 'rules as code' (RaC) approaches), in terms of whether and on what basis computer code may have the intended legal effect of binding a constituency as if it were legislation. We hope to **further the understanding of the roles of formalisation and 'effectiveness' in the domains of law and computer science** in this third seminar, which follows the success of our first two seminars, discussing text-driven and data-driven law ([2019](#) and [2020](#), respectively). To see the invited participants and abstracts of their draft papers, click [here](#).

## **Update on staff research**

**Mireille Hildebrandt**, our PI, is currently working on the implications of the proposed AI Act for the development, the making available on the market, the putting into service and the use of 'legal tech' AI systems. She believes that such legal technologies should be qualified as high risk systems, whether they are used by the judiciary or not. She has been working on the conceptual, structural and practical dimensions of the 'typology of legal technologies' that the legal team is developing, together with the CS team. The typology will become available in 2022 as a tool with various filters on the COHUBICOL website and aims to provide an

overview of the most relevant *types of legal technologies*, by way of an in-depth investigation of a range of currently available 'legal techs', whether these take the form of an academic exploration, proof of concept, prototype or of a system available on the market of legal services. Next to a range of practical qualifications (who developed the system, who are the intended users, which jurisdiction is targeted, open source or proprietary etc.) the typology first of all raises two key questions: *what is the claimed functionality? and how is this substantiated (if at all)?* Further to this Hildebrandt is preparing a range of scientific papers, chapters, forewords and keynotes – mostly on the interaction between AI systems and the nature of law.

## **Publications (other)**

- Laurence Diver, (2021). Interpreting the Rule(s) of Code: Performance, Performativity, and Production. MIT Computational Law Report. Available at <https://law.mit.edu/pub/interpretingtherulesofcode>
- Mireille Hildebrandt, (2021). A brief commentary to the proposal for an EU AI Act of 21 April 2021. Available [here](#)

## **Presentations**

*Upcoming: we resume presenting after the summer leave*

*Past:*

- On 16 July 2021, Mireille Hildebrandt spoke on 'The AI Act: robust law for robust AI systems' at the [Doctoral Forum 'Markets, Governance and European Law in the Algorithmic Era'](#) at the Humboldt University of Berlin.
- On 9 July 2021, Mireille Hildebrandt spoke on [computational human rights](#) at LETS Lab conference on 'Digital Rights 2.0: A Decade of Transformations for the Rule of Law'.
- On 8 July 2021, Mireille Hildebrandt spoke on the role of human oversight in the AI Act at the [IRDT Conference 'Regulating AI – The Commission's proposal for an Artificial Intelligence Act: Legal Assessments'](#).
- On 16 June 2021, Mireille Hildebrandt joined a panel discussion organised by IAPP to discuss the EU Digital Strategy. To (re)watch the panel, click [here](#).
- On 11 June 2021, Laurence Diver and Mireille Hildebrandt spoke at a virtual breakfast meeting on 'Digital-ready lawmaking and ethics' hosted by the EC Legal Interoperability team. Key takeaways and a recording of the event are available [here](#).
- On 1 June 2021, Mireille Hildebrandt spoke at the [EU Digital 2021: Leading the Digital Decade](#) on the idea of the solemn Interinstitutional Declaration of Digital Principles. For the text of her 5 minutes, click [here](#).
- On 31 May 2021, Mireille Hildebrandt took part in a discussion on the EU AI regulation joining panelists with different backgrounds in the webinar 'AI Regulation in the EU: What is the right mix?' To (re)watch the webinar, click [here](#).

## **Added resources to the website:**

Under [bibliography](#) we added (check it out in the Zotero database):

- Dadgostari, Faraz, Mauricio Guim, Peter A. Beling, Michael A. Livermore, and Daniel N. Rockmore. 2021. 'Modeling Law Search as Prediction'. *Artificial Intelligence and Law* 29 (1): 3–34. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10506-020-09261-5>.

## **Call for Researchers of the Chair of History and Philosophy of Sciences 'Free your inner Llama' (2022-2024)**

We are delighted to announce that Mireille Hildebrandt will hold the **Casterman-Hamers Chair on the History and Philosophy of Sciences** in 2022-2024.

Hildebrandt has been working on the cusp of the sciences and the humanities, with keen attention to encounters between science and art, sense and sensibility, perception and cognition, advocating the kind of slow thinking that feeds into fast intuiting and vice versa. She will leave trodden paths to free her inner llama, inviting those working in AI, law and philosophy to do the same – creating a web of elephant paths that mingle the art of science with the science of art, while navigating the space of numbers, data, models and patterns. Llamas are said to be patient, kind, capable of ‘reading’ their human counterparts, smart and curious, as well as strong willed, insubordinate and reasonably sovereign when challenged to take on unwarranted tasks. They sound like the perfect independent yet sensitive, strong willed yet kind research collaborator.

Hildebrandt is inviting researchers to apply for a research fellowship that allows them to perform in-house research at Vrije Universiteit Brussel on the cusp of the sciences and the humanities, inspired by iterant interaction with art and artists in the Brussels context. For more information about the call, click [here](#).

**The next newsletter will arrive in your inboxes in September. Till then we wish you a wonderful summer!**

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