

Brussels Global Law Week 2018

UNIVERSITÉ LIBRE DE BRUXELLES

Young Scholar Event



Young Scholar Event of the [Brussels Global Law Week 2018](#)

Call for Papers

Opening the Black Box of Technology:

The Place of Fundamental Rights

18th May 2018

Smart contracts, copyright robots, e-discovery, automatic online conviction procedure, e-government, learning management system, predictive algorithms, benchmarking, AI profiling! The latest tools developed in IT are reshaping modernity as we know it but their impact on law and more precisely on fundamental rights remains a largely uncharted territory.

Progressively automating every aspect of our lives, technology also automates and frames the creation, enforcement and adjudication of the law. Fundamental rights can be at stake at two different levels: in the *design* and/or in the *use* of technological devices.

An illustrative example is the use of artificial intelligence and machine learning for crime prosecution. Predictive algorithms are normally considered less biased than humans, as we can specifically exclude from the *design* of algorithms variables like race, ethnicity, sexual orientation etc. But there might be inherent biases in the input data, a lack of operational transparency of algorithms and inaccurate, *viz.* surprisingly stupid results which influence or should influence the way we *use* technology. In our example, problematic districts of a town might require more interventions, which will lead to more crime prosecution and will reinforce the negative bias of the input data. Imagine in addition that, as is planned in certain countries, the following judgment is produced automatically by another algorithm that we also cannot contest. A step from where we stand now, is the brave new world of black boxes taking decisions on our behalf.

Similar examples can be found in almost any aspect of our lives today and we invite candidates to explore as many as possible, from public to private sector, from FinTech, LawTech, RegTech, GovTech, CivicTech to any Tech-invaded legal question.

We invite paper proposals addressing the intersection between technology (its design and/or use) and fundamental rights specifically in areas not limited to:

- The use of predictive algorithms and statistical models by courts and public offices;
- GovTech and CivicTech;
- FinTech and possibly discriminatory access to banking and financial services;
- Collaborative economy and discrimination;
- The threat of cultural rights by proprietary algorithms

Guidelines for Submissions

1. Submission of Proposals

The YSE is opened to **young scholars** only, among lawyers, economists, political scientists, sociologists, mathematicians and engineers enrolled in a doctoral or postdoctoral program, as well as to young assistant professors having defended their doctoral thesis within the last 2 years.

The YSE will consist of:

- (1) **Panels:** you have 15 minutes to present your paper – comments and questions afterwards.
- (2) a **soapbox session:** you have 5 minutes to defend a controversial thesis/idea about one of the topics above.

Proposals might be submitted by email to YSEBrussels@gmail.com by **March 16**. The proposals may contain the following information:

- * An abstract of 500 words, in which it must be specified if the proposal is submitted for the panel or the soapbox session or both;
- * A CV.

2. Selection of Papers

Proposals will be selected on the basis of quality and pertinence in regard to the topics of the conference in general and the panels in particular.

Participants should submit a draft paper by **May 2**. The contributions will be published in the Perelman Working Papers series. In order to be published, final contributions should be sent by **June 18**.

3. Practical Information

The YSE will be held at the *Université Libre de Bruxelles*, on May 18, 2017. It is **part of the [4rd Edition of the Brussels Global Law Week](#)**, organized by the Perelman Centre for Legal Philosophy, from 14 to 18 May 2017. Selected participants are also invited to attend all other conferences and events of the Global Law Week without any additional costs. For further information, please join us on the email YSEBrussels@gmail.com.

We hope to see you here!

Young Scholars Event Conveners

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