



ESIL Interest Group on International Law and Technology Call for Papers - ESIL Annual Conference 2022

Algorithmic and Technological Modes of In-/Exclusion - International Legal Method and Critique

Thursday, 1 September 2022 (hybrid format)

Data-driven and algorithmic technologies are often used to create models, prototypes, and lists that are in turn creating models and prototypes of political, social, and economic ordering. This raises critical questions that challenge traditional ways of conceptualizing global law and governance, and their associated exclusions, that we are interested to explore in this Workshop.

Against the presumption that law and technology are competing modes of governance, law and technology have a long history of mutual shaping. Moreover, these modes of ordering society and the world have normative effects, and result in exclusions of those who vary from the models and prototypes, as well as exclusions in terms of who governs technological tools and how they are used. At the global level, this becomes particularly problematic when practices of inclusion and exclusion through the use of technological tools reproduce colonial dynamics, contribute to inequality, and result in violence. These technologies are not only structured and facilitated by legal institutions, they are also increasingly used to facilitate or effectuate legal norms. As the use of advanced digital technologies proliferates, there is a need to critically engage with the novel challenges they pose by experimenting with the research methodologies we use to know complex socio-technical processes. Engaging with questions of method allows better questions to be asked, enhances our understanding of data-driven processes, and can help to make the stakes and effects of algorithmic governance more visible and contestable.

This Workshop on *Algorithmic and Technological Modes of In-/Exclusion - International Legal Method and Critique*, seeks papers that engage with the following themes and questions:

- How are algorithmic and machine learning models being used in the exercise of (global) governance, and the making and fixing of subjectivities and (ab)normalities?
- What are the possibilities and limits for new technological tools and practices to enable more inclusive forms of governance, politics and democracy at the global level?
- How are data-driven global governance processes reconfiguring sovereignty, jurisdiction and rights? And how should the effects of these processes be addressed?
- How are technological infrastructures contributing to, and reshaping, the politics of exclusion in global law and governance - for example, in the management of borders, the governance of security, and the distribution of resources?
- To what extent are algorithmic forms of exclusion reproducing or amplifying existing (racial, gendered or socio-economic) inequalities, and in which ways are these lines of structural social division being reconfigured or redrawn?
- How is the human body encountering and being reshaped by digital processes in the international legal and humanitarian contexts? Are biometric technologies, for example, enabling more diffuse forms and practices of power that are more difficult to challenge?
- How are political problems in international law and global governance being reframed instrumentally as technological problems to be solved through technical means?
- Is inclusion a desirable goal in the context of algorithmic and data-driven governance? Is self-exclusion a form of emancipatory politics in this context?
- What does decolonisation mean in the context of algorithmic governance and international law? How can racialised practices of inclusion/exclusion be challenged?
- What methodological tools help in analyzing the dynamics and problems of power, exclusion, and violence via algorithmic technologies in the international legal context?

We invite abstracts of no more than 500 words by 9 May 2022. Decisions should be made by early June. Abstracts, and/or any queries about this call, should be sent to: ESILIG.Technology@gmail.com.

Important Information

The Interest Group is unable to provide funding for travel and accommodation. Selected speakers will be expected to bear the costs of their own travel and accommodation. Some [ESIL travel grants](#) and [ESIL carers' grants](#) will be available to offer partial financial support to speakers who have exhausted other potential sources of funding.

Please see the [ESIL website](#) for all relevant information about the conference.

All participants at ESIL Interest Group workshops are required to register for the Annual Conference. There will be an option to register just for one day to attend the workshop; however, all participants are warmly invited to attend the entire event.

Speakers selected for this workshop can indicate their interest in being considered for the ESIL Young Scholar Prize, if they meet the [eligibility conditions](#) as stated on the ESIL website.