**ATHENS TRAINING SCHOOL in human rights and the AI**

**GDHRNet 03 – 05 July 2024**

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Global Digital Human Rights Network (GDHRNet), EU COST Action no CA19143 (EU Cooperation in Science and Technology Program) organizes a training school “Human Rights and the Artificial Intelligence”. The training school will be organized in Athens and hosted by the Laboratory of Law and Informatics (L.L.I.), Athens Law School, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.

The venue is located at 47 Akadimias str., 10679, Athens.

The training school will open to the participants theoretical aspects and practical challenges related to the fast development of the AI and automated decision-making systems from human rights perspective. Beyond-state-of-the-art views will be discussed by scholars whose research mainly focuses on digital human rights. Participants will receive a certificate of attendance from the GDHRNet.

The training school covers the **following costs** for participants attending in person: i) travel expenses to Athens; ii) plus daily allowance of 193 euro per day for four days (the day of travel on 02 July and three days of the training school), so in total 772 euro. Participants are expected to make their own accommodation arrangements and cover this from the daily allowance. Lectures will be each day from 09.00 to 14.45 with breaks. Reimbursement of the costs will be paid within one week after submission of travel expense documents, signatures at attendance sheets for each day will be required.

The training will be in hybrid format. Preference is given to students attending in person, the limit of students will be 25.

The training school is open for Master and PhD students and professionals who are interested in digital and/or human rights. Bachelor level students may be considered on the basis of expression of interest.

**To apply, please write by 20 May 2024 to Mirela Pachou,** training school coordinator from the side of the Laboratory on Law and Informatics: [m-pachou@law.uoa.gr](mailto:m-pachou@law.uoa.gr) Please submit a short (maximum 1 page) statement of your interest in the subject and short cv (including your educational background). **Please also indicate whether you plan to attend in person or online.** Applications are reviewed and approved as they arrive, so the earlier you apply the earlier you will receive the decision. For questions related to the program content please write to network Chair, professor Mart Susi at [mart.susi@tlu.ee](mailto:mart.susi@tlu.ee)

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| **Wednesday 3 July 2024** |  |  |
| **1.** 09:00-10:45 | **Mart Susi** & **Georgios Yannopoulos** | *An Introduction to AI & Human Rights:*  *AI and trust from the human rights perspective*  *AI and the GDPR: Safeguarding human rights related to automated decision-making* |
| Coffee Break (15 mins) |  |  |
| **2.** 11:00-12:45 | **Maria Biliri** & **Emmanouil Dimogerontakis** | *An Introduction to the AI Act & the regulation of algorithms* |
| Coffee Break (15 mins) |  |  |
| **3.** 13:00-14:45 | **Wolfgang Benedek** | *Digital Human Rights and AI Governance* |
| **Thursday 4 July 2024** |  |  |
| **4.** 09:00-10:45 | **K. Christodoulou** | *Civil Liability, AI and Human Rights* |
| Coffee Break (15 mins) |  |  |
| **5.** 11:00-12:45 | **Alexandre** **Dias Pereira** | *EU Regulation of Digital Services and Global Digital Human Rights* |
| Coffee Break (15 mins) |  |  |
| **6.** 13:00 – 14:45 | **Nuno M. Garcia** | *2101 - Challenging the new generative AI models to predict the world of our grandchildren* |
| 21:00 Social event |  |  |
| **Friday 5 July 2024** |  |  |
| **7.** 09:00-10:45 | **Jukka Viljanen** | *European approach to AI and freedom of expression – practice of ECHR* |
| Coffee Break (15 mins) |  |  |
| **8.** 11:00-12:45 | **Sejla Maslo Cerkic** | *The impact of AI on the protection of journalists and human rights defenders – analysis of recent human rights reports* |
| Coffee Break (15 mins) |  |  |
| **9.** 13:00-14:45 | **Vesna Crnić-Grotić** | *The Right to Education in the Age of AI* |

**The program and speakers**

**An Introduction to AI & Human Rights**

**Mart Susi** (Professor of Human Rights Law at Tallinn University, Chair of Global Digital Human Rights Network)

**AI and trust from the human rights perspective**

The proposition of turning unfair normativity into fair judicial or quasi-judicial outcome cannot be validated for the digital domain, where automated solutions or the artificial intelligence are allowed to make decisions. This is because of two reasons. The first is because of a phenomenon which is primarily intuitionistic and asserts that the concept of trust in the digital domain has a blind eye towards the question of normative fairness. This is related to the objection from Radbruch’s disavowal formula. Digital domain operators – automated systems and the artificial intelligence, take for granted the positive features of positive or quasi-positive rules. Judges refusing to apply a legal norm which would lead to extremely unfair outcome do so because they can exercise distrust towards law. Artificial intelligence and automated systems, on the other hand, are designed to trust law. To put it figuratively, the degree of our trust in physical judges is related to our expectation that they are capable of distrusting law. And our trust towards automated systems and artificial intelligence is weaker because we assume that they completely trust law. This is the context which will be discussed in the lecture.

**Georgios N. Yannopoulos** (Professor of Legal Informatics and Director of the Laboratory of Law & Informatics, Athens Law School, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens)

**AI and the GDPR: Safeguarding human rights related to automated decision-making**

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as a transformative force with profound implications for society. One of the critical areas where AI intersects with human rights is in automated decision-making processes. As AI systems become increasingly integrated into various aspects of daily life, concerns have arisen regarding their potential impact on human rights, privacy, and autonomy. In response to these concerns, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) stands as a landmark piece of legislation, providing a comprehensive framework for safeguarding individuals' rights in the digital age. The GDPR not only establishes principles of data protection but also serves as a crucial tool in safeguarding individuals’ rights, freedoms and legitimate interests relevant to artificial intelligence, providing them with at least the right to obtain human intervention.This is the context which will be discussed in the lecture.

**Maria Biliri, Emmanouil Dimogerontakis** (Laboratory of Law & Informatics, Athens Law School, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens)

**An Introduction to the AI Act & the Regulation of Algorithms**

The lecture will offer a detailed overview of the EU AI Act, emphasizing its pioneering role in the regulation of algorithms. As the first comprehensive legal framework on AI globally, the AI Act addresses critical aspects such as transparency, accountability, and ethical issues associated with AI technologies. It marks a pivotal moment in algorithm regulation, promoting principles of fairness, non-discrimination, and building trust among users.

The students will delve into specific provisions of the AI Act that govern algorithmic transparency, accountability, and oversight, equipping them with a deep understanding of how the legislation seeks to minimize risks like bias and manipulation. By examining real-world scenarios, the lecture will highlight the critical importance of regulating algorithms to foster innovation while safeguarding fundamental rights and ethical standards.

**Wolfgang Benedek** (Institute of International Law and European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy of University of Graz, Austria)

**Digital Human Rights and AI Governance**

The emergence of ever more sophisticated applications of AI creates new challenges for the protection of human rights. Those range from the amplification of disinformation, hate speech and discriminatory bias to surveillance and deep fakes with a disruptive potential for society and democracy. They are affecting core human rights like freedom of expression and information and the right to privacy and data protection.

However, the developments in the field of AI like ChatGPT in particular have stimulated a debate whether there is a need for new digital human rights. International organizations like the Council of Europe and the EU, but also national states like the USA have engaged into a regulatory competition of the new challenges.

Global organizations are also responding like UNESCO with recommendations on the ethics of AI or the United Nations with the forthcoming Global Digital Compact. The UN High-Level Advisory Body for Artificial Intelligence created in 2023 has identified several AI principles and governance functions, incl. the possibility of a new UN agency. Soft and hard law approaches are to complement each other. A multistakeholder approach to AI governance includes also the private sector, civil society and the technical community some of which propagate a digital humanism approach.

New digital human rights are derived from existing offline rights or from novel protection needs. Examples are the right to informational self-determination, the right to be forgotten or the right to be informed when interacting with AI and to human oversight. For example, the AIA in Article 50 provides for several transparency obligations like the disclosure of interacting with an AI system including the use of deepfakes or the prohibition of biometric categorization in public places or social scoring. A comparison of international and national regulation efforts provides insights into the present state of governance of AI and future challenges.

**Konstantinos Christodoulou** (Professor of Civil Law at Athens Law School, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens)

**Civil Liability, AI and Human Rights**

**Sejla Maslo Cerkic (**Faculty of Law, “Dzemal Bijedic” University of Mostar, OSCE Mission to BiH)

**The impact of AI on the protection of journalists and human rights defenders – analysis of recent human rights reports**

The profound impact of technology and artificial intelligence on the work and the human rights of journalists and human rights defenders has been extensively discussed in various reports published by prominent human rights organizations. These reports are dedicated to identifying the most pressing challenges arising from the utilization of technology and AI, by governments and private entities, with the intention of stifling critical voices and impeding discussion on matters of public concern. AI-driven technologies, often inadequately regulated, tend to place unwarranted restrictions on fundamental rights such as freedom of expression, assembly and association, privacy and movement of these groups, which are crucial for these groups often regarded as “safeguards of democracy” under international human rights framework. Concurrently, undemocratic legislative initiatives aimed at further curtailing fundamental freedoms of civil society and the media (i.e. criminalization of defamation, so called “foreign agents” laws), serve to further amplify adverse impacts against these groups, as well as marginalized communities worldwide.

The lecture will concentrate on the recent reports issued by international organizations, including prominent non-governmental entities such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch. These reports delineate the challenges and offer recommendations that should ensure a framework aligned with human rights principles, thereby fostering an environment conducive to the work of journalists and human rights defenders.

**Vesna Crnić-Grotić** (Professor of Law at Rijeka University)

**The Right to Education in the Age of AI**

There is an undeniable right to education under international law although the details are not as uniform as one would expect. Students will be able to examine the fundamental principles of the right to education – what does it entail, who are the beneficiaries and the protagonists of this right and what are the legal sources providing for this right. In the context of AI it is necessary to identify key challenges hindering the realization of the right to education in the digital era, such as the digital divide and socioeconomic barriers but also discriminatory linguistic or other preferences. Is it possible to ensure the key elements of the right to education: accessibility, availability, acceptability, adaptability – in the age of AI? Students will examine the ways new technologies could influence education. Through case studies and discussions, they will identify best practices for ensuring equitable access to education in the age of AI, emphasizing the importance of collective action and advocacy for promoting inclusive educational opportunities for all.

**Nuno M. Garcia** (Full Professor of Biomedical Engineering at the Faculty of Sciences, University of Lisbon)

**2101 - Challenging the new generative AI models to predict the world of our grandchildren**

In this talk, we will explore the hallucination of the new AI models to give us insight on how the world would look like in the first year of the 22nd century. We will ask the participants to "hallucinate", and provide their vision of what the year 2101 will be like in areas such as politics, justice, education, security and defence, and human relationships. Then we will compare the results with those of the ai and try to guess an optimal vision of the future.

**Alexandre Dias Pereira** (Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law of the University of Coimbra in Portugal)

**EU Regulation of Digital Services and Global Digital Human Rights**

This lecture provides an overview of EU regulatory framework of digital services, in order to find out whether and how digital human rights are protected vis-a-vis online platforms, search engines and other digital services. We will focus on the liability for third party content and the obligations of due dilligence of internet intermediary service providers,in particular in what concerns very large online platforms and search engines, as it is provided by EU regulation and case-law of the Court of Justice.

**Jukka Viljanen** (Professor of Public Law at the Tampere University, Finland)

**European approach to AI and freedom of expression – practice of the European Court of Human Rights**

Discussion on AI and Freedom of expression has arisen from several perspectives. There have been raised questions related to role of search engines, algorithms polarizing political discourse, even first defamation cases against Chat GPT are now before courts. There is also discussion of positive sides of using AI e.g. combating hate speech. In this lecture, we focus on some of the main issues. How should we review the freedom of expression doctrine in light of AI? What are the key elements of the prevailing freedom of expression doctrines that needs to be developed due to AI? What are the roles and responsibilities of different actors (authorities, tech companies, individuals) in the age of AI?