MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO A LAW OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Master in International and European Business Law

Faculty of Social Sciences, Economics and Law

Course information

Master Year 1	30 HOURS
Spring Semester	5 ECTS

Lectures (CM)

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Course description

Each term used in the title of this course is important: "Multidisciplinary Approach to a Law of Artificial Intelligence". Why "a" law and not "the" law? For a very simple reason: Researchers in the field of AI (there are perhaps millions of them, in many thousands of laboratories throughout the world), philosophers and AI entrepreneurs all agree: Today, there is no law of Artificial Intelligence. There is no law of "Intelligence by Design" as opposed to Biological Intelligence, or Human Intelligence. It is true that established "hard" and "soft" law deal with bits and pieces of AI ("Robotics Law", for instance, the EU's General Data Protection Regulation, as entered into force in 2018, "GDPR"), and, since 2017, proposals have begun to emerge from European Institutions, yet there is no "law" of Artificial Intelligence, in all of its different forms, as a discipline.

This said, on 21 April 2021, the European Commission issued a proposal for an EU Artificial Intelligence Act: the first proposal of its kind in the world (since then, other proposals have followed, in other jurisdictions). Multidisciplinary? That is to say "interdisciplinary without limits": not just AI as technology, but all disciplines at the crossroads of man, machine and, when relevant, the law: the "Big History" of our universe and the emergence of human intelligence ("homo sapiens"), philosophy, psychology, cognitive sciences, genetics, law and ethics (of course). It should be reminded that the course is established as a humanities course for lawyers. This means no limits as to the approach: all disciplines, all knowledge can be called upon to contribute to our understanding of the issues. And thus, to take various examples, in addition to the more general themes referred to above, the course also goes into more technical subjects of Artificial Intelligence, such as the symbiosis between data/Big Data, the operation of basic algorithms and the different types of AI (narrow AI/ general AI) and new techniques of "AI methods and learning": Artificial Neural Networks/ Deep Learning,

Supervised/Unsupervised and Reinforced Learning. In such technical context, there are many multidisciplinary questions concerning the multi-disciplinary evolution of homo sapiens to deal with in the context of the legal perspective. Where does human intelligence come from and how has it evolved (the role of tools, to "augment" biological intelligence)? Where does law come from? What is its function? This leads to a whole series of questions about how the emergence of Artificial Intelligence can have an impact,and bring on new challenges. There are, from the standpoint of lawyers, legal and ethical challenges, in a number of sectors, such as the material world (Internet of Things) the workplace (automatisation/robotisation), predictive crime control and justice, medicine/healthcare (temptation of transhumanism?), governmental data bases and practices (use of facial recognition algorithms and creation of universal data bases concerning citizens).

In sum, this is a course concerning "Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Humanity", with a special attention to the Legal and Ethical context at the time of the course during the period January/April 2023.

OBJECTIVES AND PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

The aim of the course is for the students, as future lawyers, to arrive at an understanding of Artificial Intelligence which would allow getting it right legally and ethically. The challenge is enormous. As Stephen Hawking said famously, shortly before his death in 2018, "Success in creating AI would be the biggest event in human history (…) Unfortunately, it might also be the last, unless we learn how to avoid the risks." To avoid risks, Law and Ethics are at the heart. That is what we call a "human-centric" approach to Artificial Intelligence.