

LeADS Newsletter

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A Recap of Training Module 5

From the 14th to 23rd of September 2022, the 15 ESRs met again for their fifth and final training module. This time they had the chance to meet in the beautiful city of Kraków at Jagiellonian University which is one of the seven beneficiaries of the project. The LeADS training program is structured around several training modules that together aim at training a new generation of researchers as legally attentive data scientists that become experts in both law and data science capable of working within and across the two disciplines. Whereas the fourth training module in Crete focussed on the computer scientist perspective, this training module focussed again more on the legal perspective.

Training Week 1: On Data and Ownership

The first week kicked off with issues surrounding propertization of information. Ewa Laskowska-Litak from Jagiellonian University introduced the ESRs to existing legal regimes as well as technical solutions that can provide legal or de facto protection to data. Dariusz Szostek and Rafał Prabucki introduced the ESRs to benefits and risks of blockchain as an opportunity for privacy and intellectual property rights. Furthermore, Adrianna Michałowicz presented and discussed current approaches of two key deliverables from the European Strategy for Data: The Digital Governance Act as well as the Data Act and how they reflect the latest European approach to data governance. Marietjie Botes from Luxemburg University presented legal approaches to ownership and how prior to the European Strategy for Data the Commission reflected on introducing new property rights in machine-generated non-personal data.



ESRs on their first day in Kraków

Katarzyna Południak-Gierz from Jagiellonian University focussed her presentation more on the consumer perspective and how personalisation techniques (e. g. behavioural or contextual tailoring) are used on them

online. Together with Fryderyk Zoll, the ESRs had the opportunity to discuss the methodology of legal research and difficulties they have encountered throughout their first year of research. A completely different topic was subsequently presented by Katherine Lee, research engineer at Google Brain. In her talk on language models, i. e. models that learn a probability distribution of a sequence given the previous tokens, she elaborated on how they are trained with data as well as how they might pose privacy risk if they leak information. The first training week ended with a session by Marietjie Botes on discrimination and debiasing of algorithms.

Training Week 2: The Next Steps of the LeADS Project and Conference on Human Rights Centred AI

Week 2 kicked off with a session by Arianna Rossi from Luxemburg University on ethical and legal aspects of social media data mining from a researcher's perspective. In her lecture on transparency and algorithmic decision-making, Agnieszka Jabłonowska focussed on transparency, its promises as well as its shortcomings. Using the example of consumer law, she discussed with the ESRs the efficiency of newly imposed transparency obligations on online platforms with regard to the disclosure of ranking parameters. Looking at the concrete example of a platform where consumers can reserve hotels, the group concluded that in its current implementation the imposed transparency obligations might not achieve their goal of informing consumers on why certain offers are ranked above others. An IP law perspective was adopted in the following lectures. Michał Wyrwiński explained approaches to "Protection of Image" in different jurisdictions. Furthermore, Żaneta Zemła-Pacud and Gabriela Lenarczyk discussed approaches to propertization of information in life sciences and to what extent the IP system already provide control over data.



Patricia Thaine adopted again a more technical perspective in her presentation on privacy enhancing technologies such as differential privacy or synthetic data. Mohamed Ali Kandi from Toulouse University introduced the ESRs to the fundamentals of networking, e. g. by presenting to the researchers the technical structure 'behind' the internet. Claudia Castillo Arias from INDRA, one the LeADS partners that is closely involved in LeADS activities, provided ESRs with insights into their business activity in her lecture on Military operations planning: difficulties and challenges. On Wednesday 21st, all ESRs attended the conference



Conference on Human Rights Attentive AI

"Designing Human Rights Attentive AI - An Interdisciplinary Perspective" co-organized by LeADS and LiderLab of Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna. The conference perfectly reflected the interdisciplinary approach of the LeADS project with diverse presentations on topics such as "Can we trust Fair-AI?" (Salvatore Ruggieri – University of Pisa), "Ethical and Legal Issues in Accessing Biobank Data to develop AI tools" (Andrea Parziale – Maastricht University) or "Explaining AI in Cyber Defence" (Marco Antonio Sotelo – Indra).

On the day after the conference, ESRs and beneficiaries of the LeADS project met to discuss and evaluate the overall progress of the project. The training in Kraków constituted the last training module for the ESRs. The next time, the ESRs will come together in December in Toulouse for the Technical innovations In Law Laboratories (TILL) workshop, where they will work on challenges that the non-academic partners of the LeADS project are confronted with in their business activity.

LeADS at 2022 Researchers' Night

The European Researchers' Night is a Europe-wide public event, which displays the diversity of science and its impact on citizens' daily lives. On September 30th 2022 LeADS ESRs presented their research to the public and engaged with citizen from diverse backgrounds and age-groups in various events. At the National Technical University of Athens ESRs Armend Duzha and Christos Magkos together with an associate researcher in LeADS Manolis Alexakis were present at the "European Corner", where the MSCA fellows presented their posters, ESRs addressed questions from not only the audience but also other researchers and students of both universities and schools.



ESR Armend Duzha at Researchers Night in Athens



ESR Tommaso Crepax explaining the game to young participants

At Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna ESRs conceived an interactive discussion game to engage with the public in dynamic and family-friendly debates. During the discussion game "How to regulate technologies that regulate" participants were presented with an idea or problem ["Should we install one thousand new CCTV cameras in Pisa?" "Should we restrict video-game time to only three hours a week?" "Should we provide house care robots to all over 65ers?"] and then asked to express their opinion through moving around the room and placing themselves on one of the five sectors of the parliament (strongly in favor, in favor, not sure, in disagreement, strongly in disagreement). Participants were then confronted with a set of facts, based on real life events, specifically picked to question their opinions –and hopefully switch sides, repeatedly. Dozens of participants debated and engaged with the ESRs and were confronted in a playful way with regulatory challenges posed by new technologies.

In Toulouse more than 170 scientists from all disciplines met the students at the Cité de l'Espace in Toulouse for an evening under the sign of science. They had more than 6 hours to discover the museum and join researchers from the three universities of Toulouse to discuss their findings, share experiences, and exchange thoughts about original and offbeat animations. ESRs Louis Sahi and Cristian Lepore got the opportunity to discover the present concerns of technological research along with LeADS collaborator Ali Kandi and had the opportunity to discuss their research with other participants. Finally, ESRs Fatma Doğan and Aizhan Abdrassulova also attended various events and activities organized by Jagiellonian University and had the possibility to engage with scientists from different fields.



ESR Louis Sahi at the Cité de l'Espace in Toulouse

ESRs presenting their Research at Conferences

ESR **Fatma Doğan** participated in the [Digital Law & Policy – Proportionality Principle In IT Regulation](#) Conference that was held in Warsaw on the 10th-11th of September.

Fatma presented her research she worked on with Prof. Paul de Hert, with the title: A Year After EU Digital COVID Certificate Regulation: An Analysis in Retrospect. In her presentation, she mentioned the proportionality and data protection constraints of the mentioned Regulation, especially from a health data protection perspective.

ESR **Bárbara da Rosa Lazarotto** presented her research at the 1st [Democracy and Digital Citizenship Conference](#) organized by the Center of Digital Citizenship, at Roskilde University, Denmark, on 29th-30th of September.

As a part of the panel named “Data bodies/digital panopticon” Barbara presented a talk titled “**The myth of “dataism” and the construction of citizen-centered cities**”, analyzing the role of socio-technical imaginaries of dataism and its role in the datafication of citizens in smart cities.

ESR **Mitisha Gaur** participated in the [LawTomation Days](#) that were hosted at IE Law School in Madrid on the 29th-30th of September.

Mitisha presented her work with predictive justice as a panel member on the discussion track Legal Tech and E-Justice. Her work titled “The core tenets for designing a reliable predictive justice AI system” focused on investigating the use of AI systems in courts and the basic design issues with AI Systems which make justice merely statistical and prediction based instead of deliberative in nature.

ESRs **Bárbara da Rosa Lazarotto** and **Onntje Hinrichs** will present their research at the [Digital Legal Talks 2022](#) that will take place on November 24th in Utrecht.

Bárbara will talk about the implications of the Data Act proposal to B2G data sharing in smart cities

Onntje’s presentation will also focus on the Data Act but on the consumer perspective, i. e. to what extent the proposal delivers on its promise to empower consumers over ‘their data’.

ESRs publishing their Research

ESR **Xengie Doan** is the first author of the paper “[Context, Prioritization, and Unexpectedness: Factors influencing User Attitudes About Infographic and Comic Consent](#)”.

In their research the authors present first findings from a study based on 24 semi-structured interviews investigating participants’ expectations and opinions toward a consent form redesigned as a comic and an infographic in a data-sharing scenario

ESR **Bárbara da Rosa Lazarotto’s** article “[The Data Act: empty promises for business-to-government data sharing?](#)” has been published in the journal Privacy in Germany (PinG).

In her article Bárbara summarizes the provisions of the proposal, focusing on its rules that are related to business-to-government data sharing. Furthermore, she identifies gaps in the proposal as well as its potential implications for smart cities.

ESR **Tommaso Crepax** is the first author of the article “[Upgrading the protection of children from manipulative and addictive strategies in online games](#)” that has been published in the journal International Review of Information Ethics (IRIE).

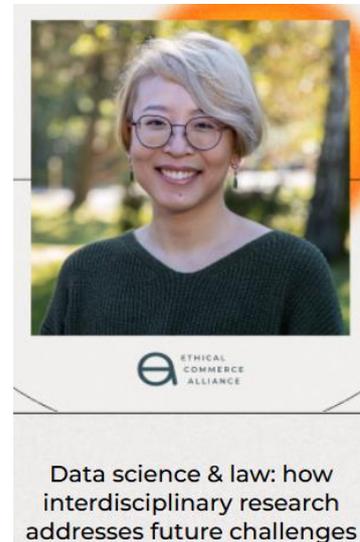
In their article the authors discuss manipulative and exploitative strategies in the context of online games for children, suggest a number of possible reasons for the failure of the regulatory system and propose a possible upgrade for the current regulatory approach.

ESRs in Podcasts: Xengie Doan on Interdisciplinary Research

ESR Xengie Doan got invited on the Ethical allies podcast that aims to uncover what really happens with ethical tech, digital rights, and more. In the episode “Data Science & Law: How Interdisciplinary Research Addresses Future Challenges”, Xengie addresses various questions on the importance of an interdisciplinary perspective in data science and law – despite both being fundamentally different.

Professionals from both fields would benefit from having a deeper understanding of the other perspective: data scientists should understand the fundamentals of the GDPR to find better and more flexible ways of implementing it and to be more ethical within those guidelines. Lawyers, on the other hand, should have a deeper understanding of the complexity of evolving technologies to find and develop an appropriate legal framework.

The Podcast can be listened to on the website of the [Ethical Commerce Alliance](#).



Video Pitches of ESRs’ Research

During one of their past training sessions, the ESRs recorded short videos on the content and goals of their research. In short clips of one minute you will get to know the faces of our researchers as well as a short introduction to their diverse and interdisciplinary research topics.

All videos are available on the [LeADS YouTube channel](#).



Upcoming Events organized by LeADS Beneficiaries

On October 21st, Jessica Eynard from UT1 Capitole-IDP, member of LeADS Supervisory Board, is co-organising a conference on the GDPR. The conference will take place in Toulouse, France and is titled “RGPD – une maturité sans cesse challengée”. In this conference, academics and practitioners will meet to discuss current challenges in data protection law.

The program and more information is available on the [university’s website via this link](#).

On November 10th Ali Kandi from Université Toulouse III - Paul Sabatier, one of the LeADS beneficiaries, organises a workshop on “Trusted Computing and the Internet of Things”. Trusted computing aims to improve the security and reliability of computer systems as well as the protection of the privacy of their users. The objective of the workshop is therefore to present recent contributions in this field and to give participants the opportunity to discuss important topics, challenges, and perspectives in this field.

More information on the program and registration is available [via this link](#).

Arianna Rossi on Social Media Data Scraping

For the latest issue of the European Research Consortium for Informatics and Mathematics (ERCIM) news journal, Arianna Rossi from LeADS beneficiary University of Luxembourg wrote an article titled “Finding a Way out of the Ethico- Legal Maze of Social Media Data Scraping”.

In her contribution, Arianna writes about the experience of the interdisciplinary project “DECEPTION” with regard to the compliance of data protection rules and ethical research ethics principles when doing research on internet data.

She concludes that in order to encourage researchers to comply

with the ethico-legal maze, practical guidance drafted in laymen terms as well as best practices and toolkits tailored to certain technologies should be created. Her article is available [on this website](#). A more extensive version of their findings has been published in the [Privacy Symposium 2022](#).

The Next Steps of the LeADS Project

During the first months of their research, the ESRs have been working on the individual state-of-the-art analysis of their research topics. Furthermore, they collaborated closely with each other within their crossroads. The report that resulted of this process has been the first scientific output of the LeADS project.

Now the LeADS project has reached the next state. First, the ESRs will continue working together within their respective

Crossroad (1. Privacy vs IP, 2. Trust in Data processing & Algorithmic Design 3. Data Ownership 4. Empowering Individuals) and write position papers. Therefore, the ESRs will have to recapture their research topic with a practice-based approach and knowledge transfer to other communities. The research conducted by the ESRs during the first months constitutes the backbone for this activity.

Furthermore, to foster cross-collaborations between their research topics the ESRs, will write working papers which will be in the form of full-length research papers. Each working paper will be co-authored by 2-3 ESRs and they will go through peer review process. Among the topics are data governance models, data portability, data ownership by design and more.

Key facts

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