LETS
LAW, EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES & SCIENCE

Faculty of Liberal Arts and Sciences

OCTOBER

LETS Newsletter turns 1 – Our anniversary issue

It was a year ago when you saw in your mailboxes our first Newsletter. A hard bet to win amidst a pandemic. Today, LETS Newsletter is turning 1 and we could not be any prouder of our first editor in chief, Isabelle de Oliveira, who worked tirelessly so that monthly issues would include the latest on law and tech. Our thanks extend to Karen Ward, Charlotte Sowersby, Fakhar Raza, Suzanne Louail, who have all gone above and beyond so that monthly issues would reach you on time. This is an anniversary joint issue, co-produced by our incoming new Editor-in-Chief, Esra Kilic and the outgoing Editor-in-Chief, Isabelle de Oliveira. Enjoy this special issue and send us your best wishes for turning 1: like a toddler, we remain curious, eager to explore, and full of enthusiasm! Watch us grow :)

- Dr Argyro Karanasiou, LETS Lab Director

Outgoing Editor's note

Hello everyone! I hope October is treating you well! This month is the anniversary of the LETS Lab newsletter, and it is also the time that I say a goodbye to you all, but worry not, the amazing Esra Kilic will be taking over! I will now be part of the Digital Lounge Series, where you can join us once a month for special events! It has been a pleasure to bring you this monthly newsletter and thank you for being part of this journey!

- Isabelle de Oliveira, Editor in Chief 2020-2021

Incoming Editor's note

2020 and 2021 were very different years than what everyone had anticipated. We had numerous setbacks in all aspects of what we would have described as average daily activities, social lives, education, and jobs.

LETS get started with a new academic year. For many, October is the month university lectures begin, but for the world, October is the month that we experience Autumn (my favourite season of the year). Just watching the leaves fall, drinking warm drinks, dressing in Autumn colours… While you are sipping on your warm drink or just casually watching the leaves fall, I promise to include webinars, podcasts and

articles for you to keep up to date with Information Technology advances in the upcoming months! Here's the good bit, I promise to make Autumn even more enjoyable with the LETS Lab Newsletters!

A bit about me...

My name is Esra Kilic, and I am the new editor in chief for the LETS Lab Newsletter. I have recently graduated from the University of Greenwich with a First-Class Honours in law, and I am currently undertaking an LLM in Intellectual Property Law at Queen Mary University of London. I am also very excited to widen my understanding of Information Technology with you! I hope to share exciting opportunities within the Information Technology law field and recommend webinars and articles that you can read to keep up to date with Information Technology advances! I will be the one organising this newsletter and who you would contact if you have any queries. If you want to be part of the newsletter, please do not hesitate on contacting us!

September News

Scientists use AI to create drug regimes for rare forms of brain cancer in children

Scientists have successfully used artificial intelligence to create a new drug regime for children with a deadly form of brain cancer that has not seen survival rates improve for more than half a century revealed in the journal <u>Cancer</u> Discovery, is set to usher in an "exciting" new era, experts say AI can be harnessed to invent and develop new treatments for all types of cancer.

Inside the Facebook Files

Quinta Jurecic, **Evelyn Douek**, and **Jeff Horwitz** dig into the Wall Street Journal's recent series on a collection of internal Facebook documents — and discuss their significance for **Lawfare**. "It should be no surprise that people wanted to know what happened on Facebook during the pandemic."

How Government Mistrust Impacts Digital IDs in Africa

For the **Alan Turing Institute**, researcher **Babatunde Okunoye** shares insight on why digital identity projects have faced slow user acceptance and adoption in parts of Africa. "Technologies implemented as developmental objectives reflect the politics or values of governments in power."

Fighting Silicon Valley's Surveillance Machine

In an article for the **Washington Post** about tech-related biases against people of colour, **Joan Donovan** gives her perspective on digital redlining. "The concept of redlining is old ... But it's often that you have to demonstrate that the digital (realm) doesn't erase these distinctions, but rather tends to focus them and exacerbate them."

Human Oversight of Government Algorithms: Policy Flaws

In a new paper, **Ben Green** argues that human oversight policies allow the government to use flawed or controversial algorithms without addressing the fundamental issues with the tools — and proposes a new approach for determining how algorithms should be used.

OnlyFans, Sex Work, and Section 230

Lumen summer research assistant **Anna Callahan** writes that OnlyFans' recent controversy over hosting online sex work brings the debate around **Section 230** into sharp focus. "Legal scholars from both sides of the ideological spectrum have reached the consensus that the amendment, while well-intentioned, failed to meaningfully prevent sex trafficking or protect sex workers."

How Police Officers Weaponise Copyright

Lumen researcher **Shreya Tewari** writes that instances of police officers playing **copyrighted music** to prevent recordings of them from spreading online show that Fair Use must be automated. Today's copyright algorithms, Tewari explains, "are almost by definition ill-equipped to take note of context."

Is the Internet affordable?

Sonia Jorge and the **Alliance for Affordable Internet** assess the obstacles facing internet equity for their annual report. "The Covid-19 pandemic has laid bare the scale and consequences of the digital divide and underlined the urgent need to find solutions to digital inequality."

The Challenges with Researching Facebook

For **Lawfare**, **Evelyn douek** talks with **Quinta Jurecic** and **Alex Abdo** about Facebook's recent moves to discourage independent researchers from collecting data on its website. "The terms of service has a result of inhibiting the work that is urgently needed," Abdo said.

Robo-penguin: how artificial birds are relaying the secrets of ocean currents

The latest advance in marine sensory equipment is a penguin-like device called a Quadroin, an autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV): a 3D-printed self-propelled machine designed to mimic a penguin to measure the properties of oceanic eddies. Eddies are small ocean currents that other research methods have struggled to capture. They influence all the animals and plants in the seas and the Earth's climate, driving roughly 50% of all phytoplankton production.

October Events

Wednesday 20 October 2021, 14:00-15:00 BST
[Accountable AI: a route to effective regulation](#)
The third in Ada's series of events exploring the benefits and challenges of the UK Government's proposals for amending the current data protection regime (the UK GDPR). This event will interrogate the assumption that accountability measures are barriers to innovation, and whether they can also deliver benefits to society.

25th of October 2021, 11:00-12:30 CET
[Launch of Governing health futures report at the World Health Summit](#)
11:00-12:30 CET
Governing health futures 2030: Growing up in a digital world is a *Lancet* and *Financial Times* commission to explore the convergence of digital health, AI and other frontier technologies with universal health coverage (UHC) to support attaining the third Sustainable Development Goal. Join the launch of the report at the World Health Summit.

Tuesday 26 October 2021, 11:00-12:30 BST
[The AI Act: machine rules or consumer rules?](#)
BEUC, the European consumer organisation, host a panel discussion on the consumer rights and protections of the proposed EU AI Act, with speakers including MEP Brando Benifei and Dr Michael Veale.

Tuesday 26 October 2021, 13:00–17:00 BST
['Your Right to Privacy Online': CSI-COP's informal education workshop](#)
Citizen Scientists Investigating Cookies and App GDPR compliance ([CSI-COP](#)) are hosting a half-day workshop for privacy advocates and members of the public, exploring privacy, data, data regulation, how we are tracked online and the tools available to reject tracking in websites and

apps. CSI-COP also have a free online MOOC by the same name, available [here](#).

26th of October 2021, 17:00 GMT
[Women Leading in AI Network](#)
The Women Leading in AI Network hosts their October meet-up, a conversation with Gry Hasselbalch, co-founder and Research Director of [dataethics.eu](#). [Email Banno Samara](#) if you can make it. The meet-up will discuss AI policy and the next steps for the Women Leading in AI Network.

Wednesday 27 October, 2-3pm BST
[Redesigning fairness: concepts, contexts and complexities](#)
Event focuses on fairness in the use of data and artificial intelligence. This is a particular focus of chapter 1 of the consultation, where Government seeks views on how 'fairness' should be defined and delivered and suggests collecting more sensitive personal data in order to monitor bias.
This event will explore questions such as:
- How should we think about 'fairness' and how can fair use of data for AI be achieved?
- What obligations, assessments and safeguards are necessary and appropriate for trustworthy AI systems?
- What opportunities and challenges are brought by the proposed measures?

Wednesday 27 October 2021, 09:00-16:30 BST
[Visions for a digital Europe](#)
iRightsLab, the Heinrich Böll Foundation, the German Research Institute for Public Administration and the German University of Administrative Services host an all-day event to discuss the future of European digital policies including, the Digital Services Act, the Digital Markets Act, the AI Regulation and the Data Governance Act.
Ada's Reema Patel will be joining a panel on the regulation of data trusts at 11:45.

Wednesday 27 October 2021, 16:00-17:00 BST
[National Archives Annual Digital Lecture: Data Feminism and the Archive](#)
Lauren F Klein, Associate Professor, Departments of English and Quantitative Theory & Methods, Emory University, will give this year's National Archives Annual Digital Lecture. Based on her recent book, Data Feminism, she will present an approach to doing data science with archival materials that is informed by the past several decades of intersectional feminist activism and critical thought.

Thursday 28 October 2021, 15:00-15:45 BST
[In conversation with Information Commissioner Elizabeth Denham](#)
An Institute for Government 'in conversation' event, this discussion will look back at Information Commissioner's Elizabeth Denham's five-year tenure to discuss questions of freedom of information and transparency raised during the pandemic, how data can be shared responsibly and lead to the digital transformation of public services.

Friday 29th of October 2021, 12:00 BST

[Digital Lounge Series: Upholding digital rights and media plurality: Does self-regulation by social media platforms contravene freedom of expression?](#)
The latest instances of delinking and delisting people like Donald Trump or Tommy Robinson have sparked a heated debate on regulation of social media platforms, such as Facebook and Twitter. Does this amount to self-regulatory censorship by enforcing their own rules and 'by laws' on their users, or are they right to ban the promotion of self-harm, suicide, bullying and incitement to racial hatred? Our guest speaker will explore the meaning of media plurality in digital environments and will address the pressing question of ISPs and operators of websites as publishers – looking first at the meaning in US law, followed by UK common law examples, and steps taken by the EU Commission and the UK Government (Online Harms Bill).

Opportunities

- Wikimedia Foundation | [Manager, Trust and Safety, Movement Communications, Movement Advocacy Community Manager & more](#), Remote, DEADLINE: Until Filled
- Mozilla, [Media and Graphics Engineering Manager, Senior Project Manager & more,](#) DEADLINE: Until Filled
- **Associate Professor of AI & Society - Closing date: 12:00 BST, Tuesday 19 October 2021**
  The Oxford Internet Institute (OII) and Faculty of Philosophy (Institute for Ethics in AI) are seeking an Associate Professor of AI & Society, in association with a Senior Research Fellowship at Wadham College. The successful candidate will conduct empirical research related to the social and ethical impacts of AI.
  [Find out more and apply](#).
- **Senior Fellows: Trustworthy AI - Closing date: 11:59 PDT, Saturday 23 October 2021.**
  Mozilla is recruiting Senior Fellows to work alongside staff to make trustworthy AI a reality. A fixed-term contract of six months to two years, this fully remote fellowship provides the opportunity to advance your ongoing work and support Mozilla's strategic outreach efforts and policy positions. Your experience and application should align with one of the following focus areas: transparency, bias, data stewardship, movement building and open source.
  [Find out more and apply here.](#)
- **OpenArchive is hiring – Closing date: Sunday 31 October 2021**
  OpenArchive, the research and development nonprofit dedicated to the ethical collection and long-term preservation of mobile media, currently has two open positions:

1. [Director of Programs and Operations](#) with area knowledge of human rights archiving.

2. [Technical Lead](#) to manage the overall technical effort, overseeing the implementation and delivery of the development process and software.

Read/Watch/Listen/Do

Read
The global drive to control Big Tech

- [Freedom House](#)

In the high stakes battle between states and technology companies, the rights of internet users have become the main casualties. **Click here to learn how Big Tech is exploiting our data.**

Listen
Detours to more monitoring

- [Deutschlandfunk Kultur](#)

EDRi's Policy Advisor Chloé Berthélémy speaks at the German Culture Radio, discussing European security laws which restrict data protection and privacy. (The discussion is only available in German.) Listen here to learn more.

Watch
The #PaperBackSociety challenging facial recognition surveillance

- [Reclaim Your Face](#)

The #PaperBagSociety is a dystopian reality, a metaphor for how biometric mass surveillance suppresses our choices, speech, and freedoms. **Watch here to see the wide impact this online challenge had**.

Do
Track EU officials and Big Tech industry lobbyists' meetings

- [Global Witness](#)

There have been around 1 000 meetings between #BigTech industry lobbyists and EU officials in the past seven years. Is it a surprise those companies keep getting their way? **Follow the @eutechwatch bot to keep an eye on their meetings!**

Interesting fact of the month

Did you know that most AI bots were female?
Try this now – ask Siri, Alexa, or Cortana (they all function as voice assistance) a question, it could be about the weather or where the nearest bakery is, and you will notice that a female voice will answer your question.
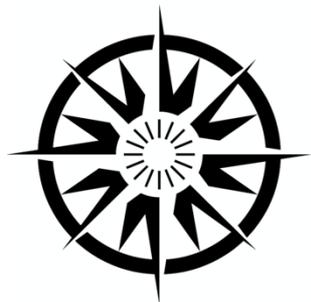
Why do voice assistants have female voices? Well, it has been theorised that both men and women feel more comfortable listening to a female's voice, whereas a male's voice feels more divisive.

For Microsoft's Cortana, they said that they found a female voice to embody best the qualities expected of the digital assistant, which is helpful, supportive, and trustworthy.

Contact Us

We are always happy to hear from you – if you have any ideas, comments, wish to join us, or simply wish to connect, drop us a line at letslab@gre.ac.uk

Please check our social media accounts by clicking on the icons below. There we will keep you updated throughout the month!