



# LETS

LAW, EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES &  
SCIENCE



**Faculty of Liberal Arts and Sciences**



Hello everyone and hello November!

This month a lot has happened! I started my LLM in Intellectual Property Law, and so far, it is going great! I look forward to sharing my experiences during my LLM, especially the new knowledge I acquire during my third semester, where I will be taking the module 'Legal Tech'.

LET'S get started with November events! Check out the webinars, podcasts and articles for you to keep up to date with Information Technology advances this month!



## **October News**

## Is the Internet Safe?

**Joan Donovan** joined cybersecurity expert **Chris Krebs** to discuss secure elections, hacked infrastructure, and more at the Harvard Kennedy School and concurred, "We have to have more required disclosures from the platforms, much more research on the harms caused by these platforms, like financial fraud or personal injury."

## Launching the Integrity Institute

Affiliate **Sahar Massachi** and **Jeff Allen** are assembling a team of integrity professionals who will attempt to answer big questions about social media out in the open. "This is just a venue for integrity workers across all different companies to take a step back and think about this emerging science."

## Building an Online Community with "Healthy Slowness"

**Ethan Zuckerman** speaks with co-founders of Are.na, a social network for online creatives, on the **Reimagining the Internet** podcast. "You seem to have something that's genuinely useful that people are extraordinarily passionate about. And yet, you've failed to cash your billion dollar checks."

## The Problem with Underestimating TikTok

**evelyn douek** writes in **The Atlantic** that TikTok has managed to dodge government scrutiny because politicians have failed to take it seriously. "TikTok is all too often regarded as an unserious thing to write or read about. That's a mistake, and it's one that Congress is making as well."

## Should We Swipe Left on Social Media?

**Jonathan Zittrain**, **evelyn douek**, and **John Palfrey** share insights in **Harvard Law Today** on the consequences of social media after a Facebook whistleblower dominated headlines last week. "Regulators are going to have to step up and do something if we are really going to change the status quo."

## Databases Should Facilitate Access to Public Information

In an amicus brief on behalf of the **Center for Investigative Reporting**, the **Media Law Resource Center**, and the **MuckRock Foundation**, the **Cyberlaw Clinic** argues that information in an ICE database should not be exempt from a FOIA request. "ICE wants to be able to lock up its data and throw away the key—or at least withhold the key as exempt."

## **Apple's Proposed Child Safety Features and Privacy Tradeoffs**

**Lumen's Shreya Tewari** shares the problems with proposals that compromise user privacy in favor of other important goals. There's "ample proof," Tewari writes, that "de-encryption and on-device tracking has a history of being misused."

## **Digital Surveillance Since 9/11**

For **Fortune**, **David O'Brien** explains how the two decades since the September 11 terrorist attacks have involved a broad expansion of government surveillance powers. Discovering the extent of the government surveillance was like a "nuclear bomb" for tech companies, O'Brien said. "They were just absolutely livid."

## **November Events**

### **Tuesday 2 November 2021, 12:00-13:00 EDT**

[Accounting for AI – a comparison of methods](#)

Harvard University's Berkman Klein Center hosts a conversation between Finale Doshi-Velez and Mason Kortz on frameworks for AI regulation and accountability. The two will reflect on the role of explanation as one way to hold AI systems accountable, as well as discuss the options for regulating AI systems in real-world settings.

### **Wednesday 3 November, 14:00-15:00 GMT**

[Responsible AI research: challenges and opportunities](#)

This event will interrogate the idea that more data necessarily leads to better research, and explore questions including:

- What does responsible AI research look like, and what role does data protection play in conducting responsible AI research?
- What have the impacts of data protection regulations been on research culture, data sharing and access to data?
- What have the impacts of data protection regulations been on the ability of researchers to create beneficial research?

### **Wednesday 3 November 2021, 14:00-15:00**

[Responsible AI research: challenges and opportunities](#)

The fifth, and final event in Ada's series of conversations to explore the benefits and challenges of the UK Government's proposals for amending the current data protection regime (the UK GDPR).

## **Wednesday 3 November 2021, 18:00-19:20 GMT**

### [Data Bites #24: getting things done with data in government](#)

At this month's Institute for Government Data Bites event, speakers focus on how better use of data is key to more effective government.

## **Thursday 4 November 2021, 12:00-13:00 GMT**

### [Can our societies withstand the pace of technological change?](#)

Azeem Azhar, Ada Board member, and creator of the *Exponential View* newsletter joins Nesta's Senior Foresight Lead Laurie Smith to unpack possible routes to rebalancing the role of people and society in a rapidly advancing technological universe.

## **Monday 15 November 2021, 10:00-14:30 GMT**

### [Working well with artificial intelligence: people and place](#)

A public debate, which is part of a collaboration between UCL and the British Academy on AI and the future of work, which seeks to address critical questions for policy, business, practitioners and society on ways in which AI could, and should, impact the future quality and equity of work in the UK. The event will take place in the Lecture Hall at the British Academy, 10-11 Carlton House Terrace, London, SW1Y 5AH, and will also be streamed online.

## **Tuesday 16 November 2021, 14:00-17:00 CET**

### [Brussels Privacy Symposium 2021 – The age of AI regulation: Global strategic directions](#)

Brussels Privacy Hub of Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) and the Future of Privacy Forum present the fifth-annual Brussels Privacy Symposium. This is an online international meeting of policymakers, academic researchers, civil society and industry representatives to discuss how the EU and other jurisdictions around the world envision fostering the development of, but also addressing the risks of fundamental rights posed by, AI systems through regulation.

## **Tuesday 16 November 2021, 18:00 GMT**

### ['Trust me, I am an algorithm.' Is AI the future of healthcare?](#)

Bristows presents this year's Life Sciences Summit, which will be streamed live from the Royal Society of Medicine. Join for a thought-provoking discussion on the moral, ethical, commercial and regulatory challenges posed by AI in healthcare.

## **Tuesday 18 November 2021, 12:00pm ET**

### [The Technology Future We Want: Imagining Positive Futures for Social Media](#)

The Institute for Rebooting social media is hosting a creative workshop to consider the opportunities and risks of online communication, imagine the futures we want, and acknowledge the difficulty (and importance) of such explorations. All are welcome.

## **Opportunities**

- Fully funded PhD studentship on AI & Criminal Justice. **Deadline: midnight UTC on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of January 2022.**  
**Come work with us at LETS!** Work alongside Dr Argyro Karanasiou on “The Look of Themis: High Risk AI and Criminal Justice”.

Research will focus on algorithmically driven methods as integral parts of the criminal justice system and will suggest a regulatory framework for uses of high-risk AI in judicial systems. The aim of this project is to study the underlying considerations for fairness, transparency, and accountability in data-driven governance and to understand data flows and the methods used in datafied judicial system, and to suggest a normative regulatory framework to address concerns raised from potential misuses of citizen data.

**For more information, visit:**

[https://docs.gre.ac.uk/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0025/257281/vcs-flas-05-21-web-advert.pdf](https://docs.gre.ac.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0025/257281/vcs-flas-05-21-web-advert.pdf)

- **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**
- [Foundation for Science and Technology Future Leaders Programme](#)  
The Foundation for Science and Technology has opened applications for its Future Leaders Programme 2022. The programme aims to provide an understanding of the broader UK's research and innovation system, and is targeted at 'early- to mid-career' people from the public sector, research, and industry.  
[Find out more and apply](#). **Deadline: 12:00 GMT, Monday 29 November 2021.**
- **NOYB** are looking for Legal Trainees who can help support their work on GDPR litigation and enforcement. As one of our three to four Trainees, you will work closely with the rest of our pan-European team and will take on your own projects which will have a direct impact on organizations and data subjects across the EU and EEA.

## Read/Watch/Listen/Do

### Read

[European Digital Rights](#) - The report shows that in Germany, the Netherlands, and Poland, biometric systems are increasingly being required for accessing public services, travel, shopping and other everyday activities. As a result, people are being given the false 'choice' to either submit their sensitive data, or be excluded from society.

[Check out the evidence here.](#)

**YouTube Regrets**

### Listen

How to understand biometric surveillance technologies in the information society and how to establish relationships between privacy, security and technological progress? Where should the dividing line run and how should we discuss these challenges in the areas of regulation, industry, and academia?

[Listen here to learn more.](#)

**RightsCon**

## **Watch**

### **Reclaim Your Face**

The #PaperBagSociety is a social media challenge part of the #ReclaimYourFace campaign that invites everyone to share online the impact of living life with a paperbag on the head. With it, Reclaim Your Face aim to raise awareness of how ridiculous is to avoid facial recognition technologies in public spaces and why we need to build an alternative future, free from biometric mass surveillance.

[See how a week in the #PaperBagSociety goes like here.](#)

## **Do**

How to safely surf online, recognise sponsored advertising, spot false information or phishing messages? How to manage your privacy settings on Facebook or Instagram, use strong passwords, react to account breaches or hacks? How to behave in case of inappropriate, mocking or even threatening messages on social networks, and if you are a victim of cyber-bullying? Test your knowledge about the protection of your personal data online!

[Click here to start the quiz.](#)

**Defend yourself against surveillance**

## **Interesting fact of the month**

Did you know that AI can read your mind?! This is kind of scary...

Prof. Dr. Joseph Makin and his team from University of California, San Francisco developed a new methodology by which roboticists can create an image of your thoughts using an FMRI scanner. The AI is designed to construct an image from your brain and compare it with other pictures, received from volunteers.

Although the prototype AI system was developed under controlled conditions, the researchers who created the project believe that with ample training of the machine learning algorithms, such a tool could potentially be used to help individuals with speech impairments and other physical constraints to express themselves, which would make a landmark achievement in healthcare technology research.

## **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](mailto:letslab@gre.ac.uk)

If someone has forwarded this to you and you would like to receive our monthly newsletter, you can subscribe by visiting this link <http://eepurl.com/hfzKfL>

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

