ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND THE FUTURE NEW TECHNOLOGIES BOOTCAMP
RISKS AND REGULATION

Professor: **Raphaële XENIDIS**
Language of instruction: **English**
Number of hours of class: **22h**

🎯 Objective of the Course

New technologies are used increasingly in many areas of life both in the private and in the public sector: to support medical diagnoses and healthcare; to predict systemic risks such as earthquakes, fires and climatic events; to help human resource services to hire job candidates; to assist banks and financial institutions when they provide credits and insurance policies; to generate hyper-realistic text and images or even art; to predict crime and shape policing strategies or to make recommendations to judges about sentences, etc. Combined with big data and AI, new technologies offer a lot of opportunities, for example by optimizing decision-making processes, providing new insights into complex phenomena, making risk assessments or recommendations more reliable, automating costly or dangerous tasks, and making goods or services more accessible to consumers. However, new technologies also present numerous risks for human safety, security and fundamental rights. This course delves into those risks and their regulation by European and international law- and policy-makers.

This course has a triple objective.
(1) It aims to familiarize students with negotiating practices and law-making processes. Students will discover and experience the complexity of multilateral law- and policy-making, with a focus on the Council of Europe and the European Union (EU).
(2) Second, the course aims to provide a general understanding of the main contemporary issues linked to the risks and the regulation of new technologies, artificial intelligence and big data. It also aims to raise awareness on how complex it is to regulate technology-related risks without stifling innovation.
(3) Third, the course aims to introduce the students to human rights and the regulation of technology in Europe, and the main theories that underpin these subjects. It will enable students to acquire a general understanding of the foundations of European fundamental rights law as well as the emerging field of law and technology. The course will also introduce students to the regulatory dilemmas that arise when policy-makers attempt to respond legally to emerging risks in multilateral settings where diverging interests are at stake.

Summary

The general aim of this course is to explore the global issues and regulatory challenges linked to new technologies and the related law- and policy-making processes through both a practical and a theoretical point of view. This course will be hybrid and will be composed of sessions dedicated to negotiation simulations combined with theoretical sessions dedicated to introducing European fundamental rights law and technology regulation, the theories underpinning such laws and reflections on related policy dilemmas.

Three rounds of negotiations will be held, during which students will be in charge of embodying an actor at the European Parliament. Each round of negotiations will be dedicated to a specific regulatory challenge (AI, online platforms, the metaverse). The sessions will be composed of informal and formal negotiations between the participants. Participants will make proposals that will be discussed, amended and voted. The final aim of the rounds of negotiation is to agree on and vote on amended legislative proposals.

The theoretical sessions will be held after each round of negotiation. The theoretical sessions will be divided in two main parts. On one hand, a collective discussion will be engaged to debrief the negotiation that preceded. Students will be given the opportunity to reflect on their experience and the discussion will be enriched by theoretical insights. On the other hand, students will be introduced to the main theories and concepts of European fundamental rights law and technology regulation. This will enable students to put their practical experience into perspective, to locate it in the more general spectrum of EU law and technology regulation and global challenges and to analyze it in the light of theories of fundamental rights.

Professor's Biography

Raphaële Xenidis is an assistant Professor in European Law at Sciences Po Law School. She holds a PhD in law from the European University Institute and she received Master's degrees from Sciences Po Lille in France, the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität in Germany and SAIS Europe, Johns Hopkins University in Italy. Raphaële has also been a Fulbright-Schuman visiting researcher at Columbia Law School in New York. Her current research focuses on European discrimination and equality law, and in particular problems of algorithmic discrimination, bias in automated decision-making systems and data-driven inequality.