

NEWSLETTER

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The Research Cluster for Applied Ethics Vytautas Magnus University

MEMBERS

John-Stewart Gordon
(Head)

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Jonas Ruskus

Charles Szymanski

Vilma Zydziunaite

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EVENTS

Currently, there are no upcoming events.

Webinar Participation

At the beginning of December, prof. Ruskus participated in two important online conferences. On the 1st of December, he has taken part in a discussion hosted by the European Commission in the event "European Day of Persons with Disabilities". A day later, prof. Ruskus took part in the international conference "Acceleration of CRPD through disability inclusive SDDGs: COVID 19 and CRPD 19" (side event) with a presentation on "Roles of UNCPRD Deinstitutionalisation Working Group".

Special Issue on Regulation

Prof. Fomin will be part of the editorial review board for the upcoming special issue "Regulation in the Age of Digitalization" in the internationally leading journal "Journal of Information Technology".

"Integration Study on Future Law, Ethics, and Smart Technologies" - Project News

Website

The "ATEITIS" project website has been integrated into the RCAE webpage and can be accessed [here](#).

Book Project: Smart Technologies and Fundamental Rights

The book project "Smart Technologies and Fundamental Rights" (Brill), edited by prof. Gordon, has finally been published. It contains fourteen chapters on legal, ethical, and socio-political challenges in the context of AI and smart technologies. Out of the cluster members, prof. Gordon, prof. Fomin, prof. Gruodyte, and K. Mosakas have made their contributions to the volume. Brill has also conducted an interview with prof. Gordon that can be accessed [here](#).

Special Issue - AI and Law: Ethical, Legal, and Socio-Political Implications

The special issue "AI and Law: Ethical, Legal, and Socio-Political Implications", of which the guest editor is prof. Gordon (journal - AI & Society) has been supplemented with a number of publications by the cluster members. Once it is finished, it will include the following publications by the cluster members:

-Prof. Gordon: "Artificial Moral and Legal Personhood"; "Review of Artificial Intelligence: Reflections in Philosophy, Theology, and the Social Sciences"

-K. Mosakas: "On the Moral Status of Social Robots: Considering the Consciousness Criterion"; "Review of Robot Rights by David J. Gunkel"; "Smart Technologies and Fundamental Rights: Brill's Interview with John-Stewart Gordon"

-Prof. Gruodyte: "From Computerised Thing to Digital Being: Mission (Im)possible?" (J. Kirsiene, E. Gruodyte, D. Amilevicius)

-Dr. Astromskis: "Ethical and Legal Challenges of Informed Consent Applying Artificial Intelligence in Medical Diagnostic Consultations" (K. Astromske, E. Peicius, P. Astromskis)

Workshop: Legal Issues in a Digitalized Society

On the 6th of November, an online workshop "Legal Issues in the Digitalized Society" has been held on behalf of the "ATEITIS" project. The main goal of the workshop was to help BA law students choose topics for their final theses. In the workshop, prof. Gordon, prof. Gruodyte, and K. Mosakas presented their areas of research, whereas dr. Pasvenskiene moderated the discussion.

Paper: The Future of Legal Education

In October, dr. Pasvenskiene and dr. Astromskis published a joint paper in the Baltic Journal of Law & Politics. In the paper, titled "The Future of Legal Education: Do Law Schools Have the Right to Be Conservative?", they explore how emerging technologies should shape legal studies and how specialized Law & Tech study programs should be developed.

Cluster Member Introductions:

Vladislav V. Fomin

Vladislav Fomin is a Distinguished Professor at Vilnius University, Kaunas Faculty. Vladislav also holds Visiting Professor positions at the University of Latvia, Faculty of Computing, and Excelsia Business School at La Rochelle in France. His research spans across a number of topics which in one way or another are focused on the interaction between technology and applications, such as: organizational innovation, technology policy-making, technology standardization, organizational regulation by means of technology (RegTech), and others.

Research Experience

Vladislav was engaged in interdisciplinary research for more than 20 years through a number of national and international research projects funded by such recognized bodies as National Science Foundation (US), Academy of Finland, Danish Strategic Research Fund, EC FP7, Lithuanian Research Council, among others. Most of his 100 publications were coauthored with colleagues representing different academic disciplines and from different countries: Finland, Denmark, USA, Korea, China, France, UK, The Netherlands, Germany,

Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania.

Current Research

At this stage of his career, Vladislav is developing academic expertise in the field of RegTech - organizational regulation by means of (information) technology. This emerging field of research encompasses theoretical analyses and frames for understanding regulatory technologies and how they shape social control and its various forms. For example, the nature, scope and effects of digitization of governance, risk and compliance practices and related mechanisms.

Why it Matters

With the growing prominence of such phenomena as fourth industrial revolution (aka Industrie 4.0), the focus of the business and governments shifts to distinctively novel technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence, and novel forms of governance, such as meta-human systems. At the same time, due to the disruptive nature of the new technologies and the associated forms of governance, there is a gap in knowledge on how such technologies can be developed, deployed, and maintained in a safe and controllable manner. Fulbright research scholarship awarded to prof. Vladislav Fomin in 2020 attests to the currency and importance of this research topic.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

There have been no recent honours and awards.

Please make sure to follow us on our Facebook page and check our main website for our regular events, which include but are not limited to workshops, public lectures, and conferences.

Our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/researchgroupappliedethics/>

Our main website: <https://www.applied-ethics.com/>

Website of the "Integration Study on Future Law, Ethics, and Smart Technologies" project: <https://www.applied-ethics.com/ateitis/>