

Human rights and legal aspects of blockchain technology

9 March 2022 | 14.00 – 15.30 (CET)

Webinar (English only)



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The Digital Development Unit of the Information Society Department produces a series of webinars highlighting the Council of Europe's initiatives addressing the challenges of society's digital transformation. These webinars are an opportunity for a wide and diverse audience to meet and discuss the associated opportunities and risks, and in particular the impact on human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

This webinar will address the human rights and legal aspects of distributed ledgers (blockchains) and associated technologies, like smart contracts.

The event is organised around the study on the topic, commissioned by the Council of Europe and performed by prominent law and technology researchers:

- Florence G'ssell, PhD, University of Lorraine, France
- Florian Martin-Bariteau, LL.D, University of Ottawa, Canada

The authors of the study will reveal key takeaways from their draft research paper, including key policy considerations relevant for the Council of Europe.

The webinar will include a discussion around key arguments of the study, involving:

- Michèle Finck, PhD, University of Tübingen, Germany
- Souichirou Kozuka, PhD, Gakushuin University, Japan

Agenda

- 14.00** ● **Opening**
- **Claudia Luciani**, Director, Human Dignity, Equality and Governance
- 14.05** ● **Report on the Human rights and legal aspects of blockchains and associated technologies and its main takeaways from researchers**
- **Florence G'sell**, PhD, University of Lorraine, France
 - **Florian Martin-Bariteau**, LL.D., University of Ottawa, Canada
- 14.30** ● **Discussants join in**
- **Michèle Finck**, PhD, University of Tübingen, Germany
 - **Souichirou Kozuka**, PhD, Gakushuin University, Japan
- 15.00** ● **Open discussion**
- Discussion continues, supplemented by the audience Q & A
- 15.25** ● **Closing**
- **Jan Kleijssen**, Director, Information Society – Action against Crime
 - **Patrick Penninckx**, Head of the Information Society Department
- 15.30** ● **End of webinar**

Webinar moderated by

- **Aleksandr Tiulkanov**, Special advisor on Digital Development, Information Society Department

Speakers



Florence G'Sell, PhD, is full time professor of private law at the University of Lorraine and associate researcher at the Institute of High Judicial Studies (IHEJ). She began her professional life in the insurance industry before opting for an academic career. Since the beginning, her research has focused on issues of private law from a comparative perspective. Her most recent publications deal with the various issues raised by the digital transition. Florence holds the French “agrégation de droit privé” and is the co-director of the Chair Digital, Governance and Sovereignty



Florian Martin-Bariteau, LL.D., is an Associate Professor of Law and the University Research Chair in Technology and Society at the University of Ottawa, where he is the Director of the Centre for Law, Technology and Society and the Director of the AI + Society Initiative. A technologist and creative turned legal scholar, his research focuses on technology law, ethics and policy, with a special interest in blockchain, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, whistleblowers and intellectual property.



Michèle Finck, PhD, is a Professor of Law and Artificial Intelligence at the University of Tübingen, an Affiliated Fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition in Munich and the Centre for Blockchain Technologies at University College London as well as a Visiting Professor at LUISS University in Rome. Her research focuses on artificial intelligence and the digital economy with a particular emphasis on data (protection) law and governance. She is also increasingly interested in the intersection between digitalization and sustainability.



Souichirou Kozuka, PhD, is a Professor of Law at Gakushuin University, Tokyo. He specialises in commercial law, corporate law and maritime, air and space law and emphasises on the comparative approach. He is also chair of the Space Law Committee of the International Bar Association (IBA) for 2016 and 2017, correspondent of UNIDROIT (the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law) and Associate Member of the International Academy of Comparative Law (IACL). His recent publications include "A governance framework for the development and use of artificial intelligence: lessons from the comparison of Japanese and European initiatives", [2019] 24(2) Uniform Law Review 315.