



OÑATI INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE
FOR THE SOCIOLOGY OF LAW
—
OÑATIKO LEGE-SOZIOLOGIAKO
NAZIOARTEKO ERAKUNDEA
—
INSTITUTO INTERNACIONAL
DE SOCIOLOGÍA JURÍDICA DE OÑATI

WORKSHOP ON

The impact of artificial intelligence on popular culture and law: a socio-legal analysis

17-18 JULY 2025

COORDINATORS **Iker Nabaskues Martínez de Eulate** (University of the Basque Country/EHU, Department of Administrative, Constitutional and Philosophy of Law)
Francisco Javier Fernández Galarreta (University of the Basque Country/ EHU, Department of Administrative, Constitutional and Philosophy of Law)

MEETING ROOM Achille Loria (1st floor)

Programme

Wednesday 16th July 2025

Arrival
21:00 Welcome dinner for the participants Oñatiko Batzokia Jatetxea
[Street: Foruen Enparantza, 9]

Thursday 17th July 2025

09:30 – 10:00 **Registration** at the International Institute for the Sociology of Law
[1st floor]

10:00 – 10:30 **OPENING**
Iker Nabaskues Martínez de Eulate, IISL Master's Program Director and Vice Dean for international relations of the Faculty of Law of the University of the Basque Country
Leire Berasaluze Gerrikagoitia, Gipuzkoa Campus Academic Secretary of the Vice-Rector's Office of the University of the Basque Country
Leire Kortabarria, IISL Publications officer

SESSION 1.- ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND POPULAR CULTURE (OPENING CONFERENCES)

Morning sessions

Moderator: Iker Nabaskues Martínez de Eulate

Lecturer Legal Theory, University of the Basque Country, Department of Administrative, Constitutional and Philosophy of Law of the Faculty of Law

10:30 – 11:00 **Opening conference.**

Presentation: Law and Technology in Popular Culture

Speaker: Stefan Machura, Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Bangor University

Popular legal culture is largely influenced by film and television. The study of these has a decent tradition by now in sociology of law. The stories follow the need to dramatize and to personalise conflicts. Typical formats are for example courtroom dramas and police procedurals.

This presentation widens the scope to include how the relationship between law and technology is portrayed in film and television. It will analyse how law and legal personnel but also laypeople are empowered or negatively affected by technology in products of popular legal culture. Then it will be asked what message is sent to the audience as a result.



Thursday 17th July 2025

11:00 – 11:30 **Coffee break** [*Gurvitch & Galdos room*]

11:30 – 12:00 **Presentation. “The Matrix Resurrections”: Trust Issues and AI Legal Order**

Speaker: Anna Chronopoulou, Lecturer in Law, University of Westminster

The Matrix trilogy has attracted much academic attention. A lot of academic ink has been spilt over the quest for understanding the philosophical questions the Matrix Reloaded, the Matrix Revolutions and the Matrix Resurrections emphatically posed on audiences, amidst sleek, stylish and retro-futuristic hermeneutics framed within the rhetoric of AI dual reality construction. Notwithstanding the importance of these accounts, scant attention has been paid to one of the main themes of the Matrix trilogy: the AI dual reality construction as the new legal order.

This paper seeks to address this absence. It examines the AI dual reality construction as the Law in the last part of the Matrix trilogy, The Matrix Resurrections. It also investigates the relationship of the main protagonist, Neo or “the one” to the AI constructed new legal order. It also puts forward the suggestion that Neo’s relationship with the new legal order evokes issues of trust echoing the current debate surrounding ethical issues and choices on AI technological advancement and use.

12:00 – 12:30 **Presentation. Artificial Intelligence and penitentiary law: reflections through classical literature and opera**

Speaker: Francisco Javier Fernández Galarreta, Lecturer in Administrative Law, University of the Basque Country/EHU

The ruthless world dominated by technological devices and amoral technocrats denounced by Franz Kafka in his novel The Penal Colony (“In der Strafkolonie”), and brought to opera by the contemporary American composer Philip Glass is more relevant than ever. In it, a “machine” slowly engraves in the flesh of the condemned the description of their crimes and, after hours of unbearable torture, finally ends up executing them.

The incorporation of artificial intelligence into the field of penitentiary law brings with it not only the design of a structure that enables the permanent surveillance of the citizenry, but also a ruthless and inhuman application of the execution of sentences; far away from the postulates, principles and rights that have long been the benchmark of our penitentiary law.

12:30 – 13:00 **Presentation. The Recruitment of Human Trafficking Victims through the Internet**

Speaker: Leire Berasaluze Gerrikagoitia, Lecturer of Criminal Law University of the Basque Country/EHU

Human trafficking is a serious human rights violation that affects millions of people worldwide. With the rise of the Internet and social media, traffickers have adapted their recruitment methods to take advantage of digital tools. This phenomenon has facilitated the manipulation, deception, and exploitation of vulnerable individuals through online platforms, where perpetrators are more difficult to detect. This presentation will examine how trafficking networks operate in the digital realm.

13:15 – 14:45 **Lunch break** [*Cantina Zapore*]



Thursday 17th July 2025

SESSION 2.- ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND POPULAR CULTURE (CONTINUATION)

Afternoon sessions

Moderators: Iker Nabaskues Martínez de Eulate and Francisco Javier Fernández Galarreta

Lecturers of Legal Theory and Administrative Law, respectively, University of the Basque Country/EHU, Department of Administrative, Constitutional and Philosophy of Law

15:30 – 16:00

Presentation. Court Architecture and the digital world

Speaker: Peter Robson, Professor of Law, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow

This paper addresses the changes which have been brought about in the Court estate in the Scottish legal system over the last decade. Robson and Rodger published *Spaces of Justice: the architecture of the Scottish court* (2016) at a time when there were significant changes in the operation of the Scottish system. At first glance these changes seemed to be about simply reducing the footprint of the Courts by closing some 10 courts. Although this was, indeed, one of the byproducts of the review of the justice system there was also a strategic development worthy of note stemming from the impact of digital technology. This paper traces the impact of this technology as far as it affects the new Justice Centres opened in the past five years in Scotland and how the digital world has affected the process of justice in traditional court settings and prospects for the future.

16:00 – 16:30

Presentation. Out with the law? Can technology fix a broken event ticketing system?

Speaker: Guy Osborn and Mark James, Professors Westminster Law School, University of Westminster

The event tickets ecosystem is broken. Recent furores about access to tickets, dynamic pricing on the primary market, price gouging on the secondary market, complaints about excessive booking fees and much more have shown that the area is in need of reform. Calls for regulation by legislation are being made in many jurisdictions where major sporting, entertainment and cultural events are taking place, but few of these interventions are providing the protections that consumers need. These problems are driven by developments in ticketing technologies and the law's failure to keep pace with, and anticipate, the speed of change of the digitisation of tickets.

In the UK, the new Labour government has promised to introduce a new legislative framework to regulate ticket touting as part of its manifesto, and FanFair Alliance have called for a three pronged holistic approach to tackle the problem that promotes a legislative response such as this, but operating alongside industry and technological ones. This latter approach forms the basis of this paper. Drawing upon recent work of Roger Brownsword that decentralizes law and sees technology as part of the answer rather than the problem, this paper explores the potential uses of AI and related technology to reduce or prevent ticket abuse. We will argue that even if law can be seen as an answer, it is only part of it, and its effectiveness can be increased by engagement with AI.

16:30 – 17:00

Coffee break [*Gurvitch & Galdos room*]



Thursday 17th July 2025

- 17:00 – 17:30 **Presentation. Law, technology, popular culture and Artificial Intelligence. When Kafka turned into apache Kafka**
- Speaker: Iker Nabaskues Martínez de Eulate**, Lecturer Legal Theory, University of the Basque Country/EHU, Department of Administrative, Constitutional and Philosophy of Law of the Faculty of Law
- In recent years, there has been a special proliferation of new graphic novels on various subjects. One of the protagonists of this boom is Franz Kafka. Is this a coincidence? Or are we facing a manifestation that existential concerns and anxieties are multiplying in a world increasingly influenced by technological culture where artificial intelligence is already becoming the new totemic reality. Apache Kafka is an open source message-brokering project developed by LinkedIn. The TI project provides a platform for real-time manipulation of a huge amount of data sources. The paper aims to expose the connections between the Czech-Jewish writer's existential angst about the legal system and realities such as Apache Kafka, so named by its creator.

18:00 – 19:00 **Debate**

Friday 18th July 2025

SESSION 3.- THE IMPACT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ON LAW AND JUSTICE

Morning sessions

Moderator: Francisco Javier Fernández Galarreta, Lecturer of administrative Law University of the Basque Country/EHU

- 10:00 – 10:30 **Opening conference. Drones and War: Dostoevsky in Manhattan second part.**
- Speaker: Iker Nabaskues Martínez de Eulate**, Lecturer Legal Theory, University of the Basque Country/EHU, Department of Administrative, Constitutional and Philosophy of Law of the Faculty of Law
- Artificial Intelligence is contributing to a new generation of autonomous drones that are expanding their possibilities for commercial and business use. Paradoxically to the sophistication of this weapon of war, at the same time, due to its low cost, it has become a useful weapon in the current war conflicts in the planet. In recent years, there has been a proliferation of films themed on the use of drones in warfare such as Drones (USA, 2013), Good Kill (USA, 2014) Eye in the sky (UK, 2015), and the recent and surprising Ukraine: enemy in the woods (UK, 2024). These new weapons can be used as guided missiles for precise attacks from a distance and can become new weapons of mass destruction at low cost, resulting in the democratization of war on a planetary scale. Therefore, and bearing in mind that this advanced technology can fall into the hands of anyone (small insurgent groups, paramilitaries, mercenaries, etc.), the outlook is alarming to say the least. This reality reminds us that André Glucksmann's brilliant reflection on nihilistic terrorism in his work Dostoevsky in Manhattan (2002) is more accurate than ever. Popular culture productions show once again the moral and socio-legal debates involved in these new social issues.



Friday 18th July 2025

10:30 – 11:00 **Presentation. Understanding the challenge of lethal autonomous weapon systems through The Portrait of Dorian Gray: philosophical and legal perspectives.**

Speaker: Ainhoa Sagasti, degree in Law at the University of the Basque Country EHU, an currently studying a Master's program in Philosophy for Contemporary Challenges at the Open University of Catalunya (UOC)

This paper explores the role of law in dealing with the risks of dehumanization associated with the use of lethal autonomous weapon systems. It draws on Oscar Wilde's classic novel The Picture of Dorian Gray as a metaphor to illustrate the philosophical and ethical consequences of the alienation caused by the use of artificial intelligence in warfare. A critical analysis on lethal autonomous weapon systems is proposed from six key perspectives: the lack of emotion and sensitivity, algorithmic biases, the meaning of victory, the banalization of violence, the ontological impact and the myth of progress. In light of these considerations, this paper argues that the legal field must play a proactive role in advocating for the prohibition of such weaponry.

11:00 – 11:30 **Coffee break** [*Gurvitch & Galdos room*]

11:30 – 12:00 **Presentation. How to navigate artificial intelligence and linguistic rights: reflections from linguistic minority rights' perspective**

Speaker: Ihintza Palacin Mariscal, Lecturer of Constitutional Law and European Union Law, University of the Basque Country/EHU

Often presented as an asset to language learning, artificial intelligence also brings a set of challenges to linguistic rights. A quick look around us during our morning commute could show how many people are using language learning apps, but very few of these commuters could tell you what their linguistic rights are, and what role AI might play in implementing them.

When talking about language and artificial intelligence, we must reflect on how to navigate the fast rising world of AI and linguistic rights. The latter being interconnected with a series of fundamental rights (right to education, freedom of speech, right to a fair trial...) one cannot help to wonder how our hyperconnected, intelligent, new world is going to interact with linguistic rights, especially in the case of linguistic minorities.

12:30 – 13:00 **Presentation. The use of the Automatic Biometric Identification System for the investigation of criminal acts.**

Speaker: Paula Torres Riego, Doctoral candidate in Procedural Law at the University of the Basque Country/EHU

The Automatic Biometric Identification system (ABIS) will collect biometric data from suspects, by subsequently cross-checking the data collected with the information contained in the police databases, in order to confirm identity or search for matches. However, there are a few rights that may be jeopardized.

13:15 – 14:45 **Lunch break** [*Cantina Zapore*]

SESSION 4.- THE IMPACT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ON LAW AND JUSTICE (CONTINUATION)

Afternoon sessions

Moderators: Iker Nabaskues Martínez de Eulate and Francisco Javier Fernández Galarreta, Lecturers of Legal Theory and Administrative Law, respectively, University of the Basque Country/EHU, Department of Administrative, Constitutional and Philosophy of Law

15:30 – 16:00 **Presentation. The potential impact of artificial intelligence on the exercise and protection of fundamental rights: the case of information and cultural rights**

Speaker: Beñat Maiz Lourido, Lecturer of Constitutional Law and European Union Law at the University of the Basque Country EHU and PhD Candidate in Constitutional Law.



Friday 18th July 2025

It is widely known the impact of the artificial intelligence on the exercise and protection of fundamental rights. In this respect, artificial intelligence raises a number of issues and concerns that deserve to be studied and legally critiqued. For our limited purpose, we believe that artificial intelligence can have both positive and negative fundamental rights outcomes.

On the one hand, it can facilitate the access to information and culture, but, on the other hand, it can be used, in contrast, to limit or condition our privacy and promote discrimination. All of this raises many questions in the field of Constitutional Law in the midst of the debate on the regulation of artificial intelligence and the first steps taken by the European Union in this area.

16:00 – 16:30 **Presentation. An approach to the fundamental rights of criminal justice in the light of neurotechnological contributions**

Speaker: Ane Urrutia Goiri, Doctoral candidate in Procedural Law at the University of the Basque Country/EHU

The crossover between neuroscience and artificial intelligence has confronted our probatory system with an unprecedented reality. The incorporation of these innovative means of evidence forces us to ask ourselves about the validity of these new means of proof, and how the human and fundamental rights recognised in our constitution might be affected.

16:30 – 17:00 **Coffee break** [*Gurvitch & Galdos room*]

17:00 – 17:30 **Presentation. Transhumanism, promises and perils for the elderly**

Speaker: Ekain Payán Ellacuria, Lecturer of Administrative Law and member of the Social and Legal Sciences applied to New Technosciences Research Group, Department of Administrative Law, Constitutional Law and Philosophy of Law, University of the Basque Country /EHU

According to the World Health Organization, by 2050 the world's population of people aged 60 and over will have doubled (2.1 billion). Following the United Nations, is expected to outnumber those under 18 by 2080. In Spain, the figures are overwhelming: 36% of the Spanish population will be over 65 in 2050. In this context, transhumanism promises to free human beings from the harm and suffering inherent in their finite existence. While, in Cordeiro's words, death will be optional in 2050, this movement will aim to reverse the aging process using, among other techniques, artificial intelligence. This raises the question of the role of the elderly, given the risk that they will be seen as obsolete beings and, therefore, forced to make use of technology to enhance themselves. Although there may be benefits in the short-term –lower cost for the National Health Service, delayed pension or retirement–, it may also discriminate against those who lack economic resources or oppose it and divide society. This opens up deep legal challenges in terms of care, dependency and health, taxation and pensions, and immigration, but also bioethical ones, by undermining the principles of autonomy, human dignity and social justice. The purpose of this talk will be to discuss the relationship between the elderly and the aims of transhumanism, in order to verify whether or not these are, by their very nature, antagonistic.

17:30 – 18:00 **Presentation. Videogames, violence and juvenile delinquency: Bowling for Columbine Reloaded**

Speaker: Francisco Javier Fernández Galarreta, Lecturer of Administrative Law University of the Basque Country/EHU

School shootings have ceased to be an anecdotal event and have become a common occurrence, not only in the United States, but also in the rest of the world.

Filmmaker Michael Moore addresses this issue in his documentary *Bowling for Columbine*, based on the real events that took place at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, in 1999. Since then, the number of these types of episodes has only increased. Therefore,



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Friday 18th July 2025

in this presentation we will try to analyze what may be the reasons that drive so much violence among young people that leads them to commit more and more violent crimes.

18:00 – 19:00 **Debate**

19:00 **Official Closing**

Stefan Machura & Iker Nabaskues Martínez de Eulate, Director of the Research Committee of Socio Legal Study's and Vice Dean of the Faculty of Law of the University of the Basque Country/EHU, respectively

END OF SESSION