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Call for Papers
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Artificial Intelligence, big data and automated decision-making in criminal justice

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Artificial intelligence (AI) is progressively transforming decision-making processes and affecting our everyday lives. The use of algorithms, AI agents and big data techniques also creates unprecedented opportunities for the prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences and the efficiency of the criminal justice system. Equally, however, the rapid increase of AI and big data in criminal justice raises a plethora of criminological, ethical, legal and technological questions and concerns, e.g. about enhanced surveillance and control in a pre-crime society and the risk of bias or even manipulation in (automated) decision-making. In view of the stakes involved, the need for regulation of AI and its alignment with human rights, democracy and the rule of law standards has been amply recognised, both globally and regionally (e.g. UNICRI-Interpol: Towards responsible AI Innovation, 2020; Council of Europe: Recommendation on the human rights impacts of algorithmic systems, 2020; European Commission: White Paper on Artificial Intelligence, 2020). The lawfulness, social acceptance and overall legitimacy of AI, big data and automated decision-making in criminal justice will depend on a range of factors, including (algorithmic) transparency, trustworthiness, non-discrimination, accountability, responsibility, effective oversight, data protection, due process, fair trial, access to justice, effective redress and remedy. There is, therefore, a clear need to address these issues and raise awareness on AI systems' capabilities and limitations within criminal justice in order to be better prepared for the future that is now upon us.

Objectives

Articles are invited to address existing or prospective criminological, ethical, data protection, procedural rights, technological, law enforcement or (criminal) intelligence challenges related the use of AI, big data or automated decision-making in criminal justice, where 'criminal justice' is broadly conceived to encompass criminal law, criminal policy, criminal investigation, prosecution, defence and judicial activity, prisons, police as well as activities of any other criminal justice agencies or bodies engaged in criminal justice issues, be they public or private, e.g. subcontractors or service providers.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- transparency of AI/algorithm decision-making
- data quality and bias/error
- ethical dilemmas relating to the use of AI in criminal justice
- machine learning and criminal justice data
- AI technology transforming legal profession
- AI and identification of online terrorist propaganda
- AI and discovering suspicious transactions in the sales of dangerous products

- AI in secure digital finance to prevent money laundering or terrorist financing
- AI and identification of dangerous hidden objects or illicit substances or products
- protecting AI technologies from attacks
- addressing abuse of AI for malicious purposes
- AI and decryption
- facial recognition
- remote biometric identification

Should you have queries as to your topic fitting the scope of this call, please contact ridp@penal.org, with a short description or abstract of your proposed article to discuss informally potential topics for submission.

Please submit your full article (between 5.500 and 8.000 words, inclusive of footnotes and full reference list of used sources at the end of the article, following the [Oscola](#) reference guide) to ridp@penal.org by 15 July 2021. The International Review of Penal Law (RIDP) is the primary medium and core scientific product of the International Association of Penal Law. It contributes to the development of ideas, knowledge and practices in the field of penal sciences. All articles will go through the usual peer-review process, with the goal of publishing the issue by late 2021. Junior and senior scholars, as well as practitioners, are all equally encouraged to submit. Interdisciplinary approaches are very welcome as well.