ie UNIVERSITY
LAW SCHOOL

Fourth Edition

LAWTOMATION DAYS

Technology and (Dis)Trust
AI between confidence and controversy

📅 **2 and 3 October 2025**

📍 **IE University · Madrid**

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Technology and (Dis)Trust
AI between confidence and controversy

As technology shifts the focus from retrospective justice to preemptive control, from deliberation to optimization, and from state power to private influence, trust becomes an ever more contested terrain—at once constructed, eroded and renegotiated across multiple domains of law.

This year, the fourth edition of the IE Lawtomation Days seeks to explore the effectiveness and limits of regulation through the lens of trust. How can legal frameworks sustain trustworthiness in AI-driven decision-making and digital governance? How can law not only inform automation but also ensure faith in the institutions and mechanisms it establishes? Is law the most appropriate tool to build trust, or should other mechanisms, such as ethics, corporate responsibility and technical safeguards, play a greater role in fostering confidence in digital ecosystems?

Democratic processes are increasingly vulnerable to AI-driven disinformation and micro-targeted manipulation, which risk corroding public trust in elections and institutions. Geopolitical stability is also affected, as autonomous military technologies and cyber operations strain already fragile deterrence mechanisms and add new layers of global uncertainty. In market competition, algorithmic price-setting and the consolidation of power by dominant actors challenge existing regulatory frameworks, while AI-driven automation in public administration, law enforcement and the judiciary may exacerbate existing biases and procedural opacity. At the same time, algorithmic management in the labour market introduces new forms of control and inscrutability, reshaping workplace dynamics in ways that may weaken trust between employers and workers. Intellectual property disputes are also on the rise, since AI-generated works and inventions stretch traditional notions of authorship, ownership and liability, leaving regulators and courts grappling with novel questions about protectability and enforcement. Moreover, sustainability debates are becoming more complex as AI deployments increase energy consumption and contribute to a growing carbon footprint. All in all, the growing influence of corporations on data governance, surveillance and content moderation continues to blur the boundaries between public authority and private power.

Undeniably, these developments can coexist with more constructive potentials. In some domains, AI has enabled smaller firms to compete in spaces previously dominated by large incumbents, and digital tools have opened avenues for efficiency gains and lower barriers to entry in a variety of sectors. Sustainably-minded AI can further environmental protection by optimizing resource usage and predicting ecological risks, mitigating harmful impacts on the planet. There is also a degree of democratizing promise in the expanded access to information, decision-support tools, and productivity enhancements that AI affords. Still, such benefits are unevenly distributed and often contingent on governance structures that balance innovation, equity and responsibility.

Building on the interdisciplinary nature of our "Lawtomation" Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence, we encourage submissions from all the branches of law (for instance, consumer, criminal, labour, public, private, international, environmental and competition law), as well as from other fields, including political science, sociology, philosophy and ethics. We aim to bridge the gap between theoretical reflections and the practical assessment of how legal initiatives shape and sustain trustworthy digital arenas. By fostering multidisciplinary exchanges, we aspire to challenge dominant narratives and provide a deeper understanding of trust in the digital era.

The two-day conference will feature inspiring keynote speeches, panel discussions and opportunities for networking and cross-generational and cross-disciplinary exchange, including chilling social events. Over the years, the IE Lawtomation Days have become a flagship initiative in the international community, known for their high-quality contributions, friendly atmosphere, collegial environment and the richness of intellectual exchanges. Participants in the previous editions have recognized this conference as a not-to-miss opportunity that fosters meaningful connections.

Themes

Our goal is to provide a platform for thought-provoking research that goes beyond surface-level evaluations, critically engaging with policy, legal, judicial and business perspectives.

We welcome contributions that adopt comparative or global perspectives, as well as in-depth case studies that, while grounded in specific jurisdictions, engage with questions of broader significance. Whether through cross-country analysis or focused national or regional examples, we are particularly interested in work that can speak to a transnational audience and contribute to wider theoretical or policy debates around trust-building in the digital domain.

We invite submissions that address, but are not limited to, the following themes:

Democratic governance: Examining the role of digitization in shaping democratic processes, citizen engagement and accountability mechanisms.

Blurred boundaries between public and private law: Analyzing how digital infrastructures and platform governance complicate the distinction between public authority and private power.

Impact on inequality, innovation and economic growth: Assessing whether emerging technologies contribute to the ever-increasing wealth gap, or if they hold some potential remedies.

The digital work environment: Exploring how digitization shapes business practices and workers' experiences, including its effects on individual and collective labour rights.

Societal and ethical considerations: Investigating the societal and ethical dimensions of new technologies, including their implications for fairness, empowerment and social justice.

Transparency and fairness in markets: Examining how algorithmic systems affect the openness, accountability, transparency and fairness of transactions and relationships.

Transformation of the internal market: Exploring the impact of automation on competition, consumer rights and the functioning of the internal market.

Environmental sustainability: Evaluating the environmental consequences of the digital transition and its potential to contribute to sustainable development goals.

Evolving roles of key actors: Examining how companies, public institutions, courts and civil society organizations shape—and contest—the development, deployment and regulation of AI.

Global competition: Exploring how geopolitical rivalries shape the design of standards, legal frameworks and governance models in areas such as AI, cybersecurity and data regulation.

Regional regulatory philosophies: Comparing the normative foundations that underpin regulatory approaches, and examining how these models travel, adapt or clash across borders.

Reflecting on recent initiatives: Evaluating the effectiveness of the recent wave of digital, data and platform regulations at the EU level considering how they are being enforced or contested.

The future of academia: Delving into how EdTech and GenAI are reshaping academic practices, research methodologies and the dissemination of knowledge.

Keynote speakers

- **Ignacio Cofone**, University of Oxford
- **Veena Dubal**, University of California, Irvine
- **Michèle Finck**, University of Tübingen
- **Teresa Rodríguez de las Heras Ballell**, University Carlos III of Madrid

Submission process

Two types of submission are possible: **individual abstracts** and **fully formed panels**. Submissions must be written in English.

- Interested participants in individual capacity are encouraged to submit an abstract of no more than 500 words.

- Proposals for fully formed panels should include between four and five presentations by participants who have agreed in advance to give their presentations and attend the conference in person. The panel chair can also be a speaker. Submitters will be asked to provide the title and a 500-word description of the panel. They should also identify the names and email addresses of all panel participants. A title should also be provided for each presenter's contribution.

- Proponents can participate in multiple roles, including as presenters, chairs or discussants.

The deadline for submission is **Sunday, 15 June 2025**.

Click here to submit your proposal

Selection criteria and review process

Submissions will be considered by the members of the IE Lawtomation Jean Monnet Centre, based on an assessment of their **quality**, **relevance** to the call's themes and the need to cover a diverse **range of topics** representing a variety of perspectives and backgrounds.

Final decisions on acceptance will be notified by **Monday, 30 June 2025**.

Selected authors will be asked to submit a **draft** (paper, extended abstract or presentation) by Monday, 22 September 2025 for circulation among the speakers and panel chairs. There are no specific format guidelines or style requirements.

Publication arrangements will be finalized at the end of the conference. Submissions will be considered for inclusion in a special edition of a **DigiBook** dedicated to Lawtomation, developed in partnership with DigiCon and subject to the standard review process.

We also welcome proposals and papers intended for publication in alternative venues.

Relevant dates

- Proposal submission: **Sunday, 15 June 2025**
- Notification of acceptance: **Monday, 30 June 2025**
- Registration by participants: **Friday, 25 July 2025**
- Submission of materials: **Monday, 22 September 2025**
- Conference dates: **Thursday, 2 and Friday, 3 October 2025**

Conference format

The conference will be held **fully in-person** to make the most out of this exciting event.

Thematic sessions will be organized with a cross-disciplinary approach to stimulate reflection and comparison.

Presentations will be organized into chaired panels and the presentation time for each participant will be 15 minutes (12 minutes if there are five participants).

There are no registration fees. The costs for meals and coffee breaks will be covered by the organization. A **social dinner** will be hosted on the first evening of the conference.

Participants are kindly requested to arrange their travel and accommodation independently, ensuring their presence at the conference venue during the scheduled dates.

Event venue

The conference will take place in **Madrid, Spain**, at the **IE University Tower** (also known as Caleido), located on Paseo de la Castellana 259E, 28046 Madrid. Directions can be found here.

Organizing committee

Francisco de Elizalde

Marina Aksenova

Giulio Allevato

Federica Coppola

François Delerue

Yuliya Kaspiarovich

Antonios Kouroutakis

Antonio Aloisi

Guadalupe Martínez

Francesca Palmiotto

Fernando Pastor

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Sergio Verdugo

Bart Wauters

If you have any questions, please contact us at **Luke.Jenkins@ie.edu** and **Isabel.Garces@ie.edu**

About the Centre

The Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence for Law and Automation (Lawtomation) is a focal point of competence and knowledge on the impact of automation on the law that promotes excellence in teaching and research. The Centre develops synergies between legal experts and data scientists, in an open dialogue with policymakers, civil servants, practitioners and society at large. It also aims to generate knowledge and insights that can support policymaking.

lawtomation.ie.edu

About IE University Law School

IE Law School sets a global standard of vigorous, contemporary legal education and research. Our faculty members, from different countries and as diverse and internationally minded as our student body, have been educated in globally recognized universities and demonstrate the best expertise in their respective fields. IE Law School's faculty conducts rigorous and impactful research that is also significant for institutions, legal services and companies, and which feeds our robust curricula.

ie.edu/law-school

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