AI-Driven Healthcare Technologies and Algorithmic Gender Bias: A Need for Data Feminism

Speaker: Pin Lean Lau, Brunel University London, Brunel Law School, UK

Time: Thursday, 16 December 2021, 13:00 AM CET

This seminar is a presentation of a work in progress. Specifically, my paper looks at how we may strengthen capacities of providing good quality healthcare that employ the use of AI-driven technologies, viewed from the perspective of feminist approaches. I emphasize that there is a co-relation between quality of care and data-sets/algorithms in contemporary AI technologies within the sphere of health.

Notably, existing literature review demonstrates that there is not only a gender data gap in AI technologies and data science fields – but there is also a gender data gap in healthcare that may result in algorithmic gender bias. I critically assess the impact that this kind of algorithmic bias can have on women’s legal rights in health, and the danger posed to their lives because of such inequity in AI systems.

Ultimately, I make a case for the need for data feminism. I suggest that intersectional feminism can reorient the way we think about and manage algorithmic data in
healthcare; and challenge and change the differentials of power that influence the dynamics of bias and under-representation.

Registration: https://forms.gle/4zBpR5BYiZnH1J7s9

The seminar will be broadcasted via Zoom application. Participation is subject to prior registration. The Zoom link of the event will be sent to registered participants via email.

Dr Pin Lean Lau is a Lecturer (Assistant Professor) in Bio-Law at Brunel University London. She is an active member/researcher of the Centre for Artificial Intelligence: Social & Digital Innovations, and Lab III: Innovation, Digitalization and Society. She is also a member of the European Association of Health Law (EAHL), and a General Manager of the Interest Group on Supranational Bio-Law of the EAHL.

Her research broadly encompasses European, international, and comparative law for genome editing; and the ethical-legal governance for artificial intelligence (AI) systems. Pin Lean’s latest completed project (together with several other researchers) was a multi-trust funded project for the World Health Organization (WHO) on developing and piloting of a Tripartite One Health Assessment Tool for Antimicrobial Resistance Relevant Legislation.

She is currently working on a project with researchers from the EAHL to produce a Joint Statement for the European Commission’s 2021 Thematic Networks, with a proposal for Health as a Fundamental Value, as part of the EU Pharmaceutical Strategy.

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The aim of the seminar series is to continue the discourse on the legal and regulatory implications of AI and related technologies in the European and the global legal, economic and social space. It brings together scholars and practitioners with a distinct multidisciplinary orientation covering the technology, its politics, policy-making and regulation, the law, and the relevant values. The series aims to foster a critical understanding of technological changes and a critical analysis of ongoing and future policy, regulatory and legal developments.

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**Forthcoming event in the series: TBC**