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Digital Administration & AI

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AI Symposium



WELLINGTON MIGLIARI SEPTEMBER 26, 2023





On the left, Dr. Agustí Cerrillo i Martínez. In the center, Dr. Joost J. Joosten, and, to the right, Dr. Juli Ponce Solé.

On September 18 and 19, the **Symposium Public Administration and the EU Proposal for a Regulation of Artificial Intelligence** was held at the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya and at the University of Barcelona on the regulation of AI at the European level. We have had different guests such as Dr. Joost J. Joosten, University of Barcelona, with his presentation *Le nozze di Giustizia* addressing issues of AI, formal logic, law and computational language. On the other hand, Dr. Enrico Carloni, Università degli Studi di Perugia, addressed the issue of transparency with the intervention Transparency and AI: attempting to catch a difficult horse. Dr. Nicoletta Rangone, The challenges of AI to regulators, Università di Roma LUMSA, detailed a dense combination of causes related to the possible successes and risks from the use of AI in public administrations. Dr. Michael Götze, Political and systemic push for legal pre-acceptance of AI solutions,

Regarding internal control by public administrations regarding the use of AI, doctoral students Eva Mota and Mónica García, University of Seville and Florencia, presented the partial results of their research with the paper Artificial Intelligence in the internal control of the local Public Sector : Algorithmic Audit. Dr. Francisco Luis Pérez, in Some considerations on the “human reserve” and the human supervision in the field of public security, Universidad Pablo de Olavide, stopped at the reflection on the reserve of humanity when we refer to the use of AI and, above all, the issue of national security and sensitive information from a European perspective. The intervention of Anahí Casadesús, Data governance in the AI Act, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, demonstrated how Spain can overcome the various obstacles still present in public administrations in terms of data governance. The last guest speaker, Dr. Javier Miranzo Días, The European AI Act as a risk regulation tool, University of Castilla-La Mancha, discussed regulatory strategies on the use of AI at the European and national level.





Below is a summary of the interventions of the members of the Digitapia Project with thematic sections and links of interest.

The Symposium ***Public Administration and the EU Proposal for a Regulation of Artificial Intelligence*** gave rise to the first presentations in which members of the Digitapia Project shared the most recent research results following the approval of the [EU Regulatory Framework for AI](#) proposal by the European Parliament last June 14, 2023. Given the fear and ignorance of European States, but without radicalizing a proposal for an absolute ban on the use of AI, the European Commission prepared a document that imposes rules for algorithmic use in the public sector or private.

Some relevant points that have guided the research challenges of each member of the Digitapia Project. The first is that the use of machines should not be

implemented in all areas and levels of action of public administrations, because, even though it considerably reduces the amount of work in the public sector in tasks that are often repetitive, complete automation, general and unrestricted ends up eliminating or confronting principles dear to the law.

The second and third points break down, respectively, the issue of the use of AI, taking as reference the production of biases and discrimination. As the algorithms need training and the databases serve to support this, we have no guarantees that States are prepared for this challenge since the information concerning citizens still requires processing, adjustments and updating. Furthermore, the way in which each country collects data from its citizens and residents, sometimes directing political and individual convictions in the exercise of public office, let us keep in mind the Dutch case of the conservative Mark Rutte, to question social aid and benefits towards specific groups. as immigrants and single mothers.



On the left, the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Rambla del Poblenou, and, on the right, the Facultat de Dret, Universitat de Barcelona.

Following this and other evidence, one of the presentations given during the symposium regarding the research results found so far presented, among other arguments, the risk of mitigating or even eliminating the performance of discretionary power in public administrations. According to Dr. Juli Ponce Solé, the complete automation of decision-making in the public sector puts the principle of

good administration at risk, threatens the reserve of humanity and removes the element of human empathy from the administrative procedure. To learn more, [click here](#).

Dr. Oscar Capdeferro, in turn, presented his work on the use of machines and automation in order to detect risks and possible signs of corruption in public procurement. Dr. Capdeferro, for example, refers to the SALER and MINERVA system under the practice of *red flags*, that is, "red flags" generated by automated analysis of contract data that indicate possible risks of illegal acts in the public procurement system. . Importantly, according to Dr. Capdeferro, algorithms are also capable of tracking forms of negligence or formal irregularities between the public and private sectors that are not necessarily evidence of fraud. To learn more, [click here](#).



Regarding the production of biases in the use of AI, Dr. Agustí Cerrillo i Martínez argues that some of the risks inherent in the use of AI in public administrations are due to algorithmic programming aimed at specific groups without proper motivation. Algorithmic errors that can generate negative consequences and effects on people, especially those with some vulnerable condition. Furthermore,

in similar cases, AI often produces biased or incorrect results that do not represent the reality of the people analyzed. Finally, Dr. Cerrillo mentions inclination bias, that is, the degree to which a reference value deviates from the truth and induces public administration, as a result, to discrimination and violation of fundamental rights. To find out more, [click here](#).

The last presentation by Dr. Ramón Galindo dealt with digital transformation and the use of AI in the public sector. Specifically, Dr. Galindo focused on the possible impacts and changes experienced in public administrations caused by the growing demand for expert personnel in technologies and digital administration. For him, currently, we cannot rule out the urgency that the public sector has in recruiting people or increasing its human resources with specialized profiles, since it is undeniable that the increase in decision automation means greater agility in procedures and procedures. Given such apparent and tempting advantages, Dr. Galindo proposes a reflection on the close relationship between administrative decisions and what he calls “AI literacy.” Having more technologies means that both the public employee and the entire society acquire critical knowledge about data, the operation of algorithms and the identification of biases. To know more, [click here](#).

The symposium is organized by Dr. Juli Ponce Solé and Dr. Agustí Cerrillo i Martínez, with the collaboration of Dr. Oscar Capdeferro Villagrasa and the doctoral student Petia Guintchev Toneva.

The symposium was supported by the Research Project PID2020-115774RB-I00 **Personalization of Public Services, Bias and Artificial Intelligence: towards the Consolidation of Digital Rights in Public Administrations**. [See more here](#).

Program and presentations in the links to follow.

[Public-Administration-and-the-EU-Proposal-for-a-Regulation-of-Artificial-Intelligence](#)

[AI-Act-and-Human-Resources](#)

[AI-in-Rules-Life-Cycle](#)

[AI-Risk-Regulation](#)

[Artificial-Intelligence-in-the-Internal-Control](#)

[Data-Governance-and-Record](#)

[European-Act-of-AI](#)

[Le-nozze-di-Giustizia](#)

[Political-and-Systemic-Push-for-the-Pre-Acceptance-of-Digital-and-AI-Solutions](#)

[Preventing-Biased-Results-and-Discriminatory-Effects](#)

[Red-Flags-System](#)

[Some-Considerations-on-the-Human-Reserve](#)

[Some-Considerations-on-the-Relationship](#)



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Una buena iniciativa en marcha sobre servicios digitales en la Administración Pública de Aragón.💡 ¡Digitapia valora ideas como la que apoya el Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación de España! [@CienciaGob](#)

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