**Conference of the Association of Human Rights Institutes (AHRI)**

**Technology and the future of human rights**

**University of Pretoria, South Africa, and online**

**September 2022**

Technological developments have made what was once science fiction reality. This gives some hope for a utopian future while others get nightmares. It also highlights the extent to which technologies that are not explicitly designed with human rights and equity in mind have tremendous potential to do harm.

For the first time the Association of Human Rights Institutes (AHRI) is holding its annual conference in Africa. Join us at the beautiful Future Africa campus of the University of Pretoria to discuss issues linked to technology and human rights. Those of you who cannot join us in person can tune in and participate in the discussions on Zoom webinar. Conference sessions will also be livestreamed on social media.

The main conference on 2 and 3 September is preceded by a doctoral workshop on 1 September on the main campus of the University of Pretoria. The main conference will start off on 2 September with a plenary multidisciplinary discussion on technology and the future of human rights and then proceed on three parallel thematic tracks:

Track 1: Surveillance and vulnerability  
Track 2 Survival and sustainability  
Track 3: Democratic participation and accountability

For more information on the conference and to register (for in person participation by 31 July) see <https://www.up.ac.za/cf-ahri2022>

Enquiries: Magnus Killander, magnus.killander@up.ac.za

**DRAFT PROGRAMME**

**Times indicated are SAST/CEST**

**THURSDAY 1 SEPTEMBER**

**Centre for Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria**

**Doctoral workshop**

**9.00-11.00 Methodology workshop in collaboration with the University of Oslo, Norway (hybrid)**

**11.15-12.30 Panel 1**

Between positive obligations and due diligence: Addressing AI-based transboundary violations of fundamental rights

Francesco Paolo Levantino, Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies, Italy

The importance of explainability and accountability in AI

Anastasia Karagianni, University of Athens, Greece

Protection of media freedom in the digital age in Kenya

Marystella Simiyu, University of Pretoria

12.30-13.30 Lunch

**13.30-15.30 AHRI Executive Council / campus tour**

**15.30-17.00 Panel 2**

Towards stakeholders-centric DPIAs in Kenya: Exploration of possible bases from theoretical constructs

Nelson Okeyo, University of Bayreuth, Germany (online)

Neuro-interventions in criminal justice: The prohibition of torture, inhuman and degrading treatment

Naomi van de Pol, Utrecht University, Netherlands

Data bias, intelligent systems and criminal justice outcomes

Jacob Arowosegbe, Osun State University, Nigeria (online)

**18.30 Welcome cocktail**

**FRIDAY 2 SEPTEMBER**

**Future Africa campus, University of Pretoria**

**9.00-9.30 Opening**

**9.30-11.00 Plenary discussion: Technology and the future of human rights**

Emma Ruttkamp-Bloem

Professor of Philosophy, University of Pretoria; member of the UNESCO World Commission for Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST)

Rikke Frank Jørgensen (online)

Senior Researcher, Danish Institute for Human Rights

Jay Aronson

Director, Center for Human Rights Science, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, US

Raesetje Sefala

AI Research Fellow, Distributed AI Research (DAIR) Institute

**11.00-11.30 Tea break**

**11.30-13.30**

**Track 1, Auditorium**

**Vulnerability**

Protection and empowerment: Striking a balance between children’s rights and parents’ obligations in the digital context

Elina Pirjatanniemi, Lisa Grans and Maija Mustaniemi-Laakso, Åbo Akademi, Finland (online)

The [de]merits of a child’s right to play in a digital age – focus on emerging challenges

Elvis Fokala, University of Pretoria

How does technological development shrink the human rights of minorities? An example of ‘limited democratic participation’ from the Global South

Jobair Alam and Taimur Shairf, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh (online)

The use of digital technologies to perpetrate violence against women and girls in Kenya

Buluma Bwire, University of Nairobi, Kenya

**Track 2 (online)**

**Health**

Leveraging technology for sustainability: right to healthy environment from an ASEAN youth perspective

Suthida Chang, Thailand

E-waste management and the right to a healthy environment in Nigeria

Benedict Okay Agu, Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies

The cybersecurity and privacy challenges of the Internet of Things in healthcare from an EU law perspective

Münevver Dal, Utrecht University, Netherlands

The right to food sovereignty as a tool against the perils of digital agriculture

Foto Pappa, Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies, Italy

**Track 3, Conference 2**

**Courts**

Digitisation, access to justice and the courts in Namibia

Kennedy Kariseb, University of Namibia

The promise and the perils: the human rights implications of using new brain-based deception detection technologies in the criminal justice system

Robin Palmer, University of Canterbury, New Zealand

There is no smoking gun: an exploration of defence rights and technological advancements in evidence

Michelle Coleman, Swansea University, UK (online)

Artificial intelligence in criminal proceedings: Human rights at risk?

Tulio Felippe Xavier Januario, University of Coimbra, Portugal

**13.30-14.30 Lunch**

**14.00-16.00 AHRI General Assembly**

**16.00-17.30**

**Track 1, Auditorium**

**Disability**

Voting matters: Electoral-assistive devices used by persons with disabilities to cast a secret and independent ballot

Adriana Caballero-Pérez, Maastricht University, Netherlands

Full and equal participation in society: the use of technology to facilitate socio-political participation of persons with disabilities in South Africa

Yvette Basson, University of the Western Cape, South Africa

Harnessing technology as an equalizer for students with disabilities in a post-pandemic world

Neel Raamandarsingh Purmah, Middlesex University, Mauritius (online)

Discrimination of persons with disabilities using algorithms

Iris Glockengiesser, University of Zurich, Switzerland (online)

**Track 2, Conference 2**

**Technology and human rights in Zimbabwe during the COVID-19 pandemic**

Elizabeth Lwanda-Rutsate, Africa University, Zimbabwe

Owen Murozvi, Zimbabwe Ezekiel Guti University

Ntandoyenkosi Moyo, Midlands State University, Zimbabwe

Chengetai Hamadziripi, Midlands State University (online)

Innocent Maja, University of Zimbabwe

Victor Ruombwa, Great Zimbabwe University

**Track 3, online**

**Access to justice**

Artificial intelligence decisions regarding refugee status

Lutiana Valadares Fernandes Barbosa and Ana Luisa Zago de Moraes, Federal Public Defenders, Brazil

Human rights jurisdiction in the era of AI technologies in maritime border management

Aphrodite Papachristodoulou, University College, Dublin, Ireland

From the vantage point of vulnerability theory: Hybrid decision-making and access to the European Court of Human Rights

Zuzanna Godzimirska, Aysel Küçüksu and Salome Addo Ravn, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

The digital divide and its impact on the rights of older persons

Adam Dubin, Universidad Pontificia Comillas, Spain, and Isabel Maraval, CUNEF University, Spain

**19.00-23.00 Conference dinner**

**SATURDAY 3 SEPTEMBER**

**9.30-11.00**

**Track 1, Auditorium**

**Surveillance**

Strip searches, body scanning, and inhuman and degrading treatment in article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights

Elaine Webster, Strathclyde University, UK, and Natasa Mavronicola, University of Birmingham, UK

Scrutinising the use of live facial recognition technology by police using human rights law

John Croker and Martin Scheinin, Oxford University, UK (online)

Surveillance and data colonialism: Practices in the creation and maintenance of racial hierarchy

Yvonne Jooste, University of Pretoria (online)

Comparative study of privacy and surveillance in Africa, India and EU

Kajori Bhatnagar and Lakshay Beniwal, Christ(deemed to be) University, Bengaluru, India (online)

**Track 2, online**

**Commerce**

Data monetization and the human right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its application

Jayson Lamchek, Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia

Is there a role for fundamental rights in China's competition law remedies design against online platforms?

Qianlan Wu, University of Nottingham, UK

Rights-based challenges to building an effective credit system through technology in Nigeria

Daniel Olika, Florida University, US

Electronic commerce and data protection – An illusion or possibility?

Winnie Kungu, Kenya

**Track 3, Conference 2**

**Freedom of expression**

Towards ensuring freedom of expression in the digital age in Ghana

Ernest Yaw Ako and Amanda Odoi, University of Cape Coast, Ghana

The power of Internet: Disinformation, political propaganda, hate speech and freedom of expression - Negative and positive state obligations in the digital age

Julia Kapelańska-Pręgowska and Michał Balcerzak, Nicolaus Copernicus University, Toruń, Poland (online)

Copy-paste? Transferring the human rights protecting civil society to online spaces

Antoine Buyse, Utrecht University, Netherlands (online)

Free speech protection for ‘public watchdogs’ in international law

Kasey McCall-Smith, Edinburgh University, UK and Dimitrios Kagiaros, Durham University, UK

**11.00-11.30 Tea break**

**11.30-13.00**

**Track 1, Conference 2**

**“I started seeing shadows everywhere”: The diverse chilling effects of surveillance in Zimbabwe**

**Track 2, Auditorium**

**Normative human rights challenges and technologies**

Technological human rights – the next step for the South African Bill of Rights?

Tayla Pinto, University of Cape Town

Gabriel Rybko, University of Cape Town

Nathalie Baumgart, University of Cape Town

An analysis of the utilization of the international human rights institutions and procedures in AI global governance

Reuben Chifundo Nazombe, Arrupe Jesuit University, Harare, Zimbabwe (online)

The European Commission, WhatsApp, and the Pfizer Covid vaccine deal – New means of communication and an old European Union Freedom of Information regulation

Timo Knäbe, University of Frankfurt am Main, Germany (online)

Regulation of the right to be forgotten in Africa

Muluken Kassahun Amid, University of Addis Ababa

**Track 3, venue 3**

**Bridging the gap between international norms and digital activism for democracy - how to make better use of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance and the African Governance Architecture platform**

**13.00-14.00 Lunch**

**14.00-15.30**

**Track 1, venue 3**

**Women’s rights, technology and the digital sphere**

Alexandra Moore, Binghamton University, US

Sunita Toor, Sheffield Hallam University, UK

Belinda Waltzer, Appalachian State University, US

**Track 2, Conference 2**

**Governance systems**

The human rights data revolution - Implementation, reporting and follow-up by digital human rights tracking tools

Domenico Zipoli, Geneva Academy

Digital citizenship and the need for legal digital literacy

Rachel Saunders, University of Nottingham, UK

Human rights related to science and data governance

Lukasz Szoszkiewicz, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, Poland (online)

National human rights action plans: an inventory

Sebastien Lorion, Danish Institute for Human Rights

**Track 3, Auditorium**

**Democratic participation**

Deepfakes and shallowfakes as artificial misinformation in the era of technology: effects on democratic participation in Africa

Mujib Jimoh, Duke University School of Law, North Carolina, USA (online)

Re-examining the legal framework for e-participation in Malawi

Wesley Mwafulirwa, Mzuzu University, Malawi

Public participation through the use of technology – reflections on how citizens can strengthen their rights and hold government accountable for service delivery in South Africa

Lazarus Moeletsi, Public Service Commission, Pretoria, South Africa

Freedom of expression online: an analysis of the African response to challenges posed by the (ab)use social media platforms during elections

Feyisayo Lari-Williams and Anne Oloo, University of Antwerp, Belgium

**15.30-16.00 Closing remarks**