

# THE IMPACT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

- BOOK REVIEW -

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**Coordinating Editor: Irina Moroianu Zlătescu, Editura Universitară,  
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The book we are reviewing is the result of the collective efforts of a group of renowned specialists, university professors, scientific researchers and experts, gathered at the twenty-ninth edition of the International University for Comparative and International Law of Cheia held at the Club of Cheia “Victor Dan Zlătescu” member of the European Law Institute Vienna, in partnership with the L’Institut International du Droit d’Expression et d’Inspiration Françaises – IDEF, the United Nations Association of Romania - ANUROM, member of the World Federation of United Nations Associations, ECOSOC, the Transdisciplinary Centre for Human Rights - CTDO - National University of Political and Administrative Studies (SNSPA), Bucharest, Romania, Faculty of Law and Administrative Sciences of Valahia University - Targoviste, Faculty of Law Cluj-Napoca of the Christian University “Dimitrie Cantemir”, Union of Professional Journalists of Romania - UZPR, Romanian Association of Humanitarian Law-ARDU, Prahova branch, Association of Criminal Lawyers of Romania-AAPR, Copy RO, with the support of the Romanian Academy of Legal Sciences, members of the European Law Institute (ELI). The meeting took place on August 4th– 6th 2023, Cheia, Romania.

The Coordinating Editor, Irina Moroianu Zlătescu, Ph.D., Honoris Causa Doctor, is a renowned Professor of European Law, International Human Rights Law and International Jurisdictions; she holds a doctor’s degree and is a postdoctor’s degree advisor at the National University for Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA), as well as a Professor of Comparative Law and European Law with the Ecological University of Bucharest. She is a titular member of the International Academy of Comparative Law (IACL), The Hague, and also a titular member of the Academy of Legal Sciences of Romania.

The topic is highly relevant. The galloping development of new technologies under the name of “Artificial Intelligence” puts mankind on the threshold of a new revolution. Its impact will be felt in all areas of social life. The

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concerns of the members of the Club of Cheia “Victor Dan Zlătescu” are mainly directed towards human rights, and it is therefore natural to address the impact that the development of technology has on this area.

In the opening study, entitled “Human Rights from the Universal Declaration to Artificial Intelligence and its Risks”, Professor Irina Moroianu Zlătescu proposes “a leap in time from the founding of the United Nations Organisation, the issue of Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) to the Artificial Intelligence and protection against cybercrime”. The conclusion of this approach is that the idea of human rights is still very much alive.

The article *Beatification of “Supervised Democracy” from E-democracy to Counterdemocracy* by Mihai Milca traces the relationship between the notion of democracy and how we see this concept reflected in reality, the difference between ideology and real life showing how technology has unfortunately become, in many situations, a tool used against democracy and not in the service of man and his interests.

Ms. Gabriela Varia explores the threats posed by Artificial Intelligence to the rule of law. One of the main problems, according to the author, is the lack of transparency and understanding of how systems work, which can result into the erosion of certain features of the rule of law.

Mihai-Bogdan Marian has a sociological approach. His study, entitled *The Fourth Industrial Revolution, Artificial Intelligence and the Issue of the Rights of the “New Man”* deals with the aspects of the impact of the change of social paradigm on the condition of the human being of today and tomorrow through the prism of the trends already manifested.

The next paper, *Artificial Intelligence and Documentary Heritage* by Codruța-Elena Mihailovici, represents a study-case of a successful relation between documentary heritage and AI: the Time Machine project. This is a simulator wherein documents, registers, magazines, newspapers, personal diaries, plans, maps and other types of evidence kept in archives, libraries or museums, by means of advanced digitization technologies and of intelligent algorithms, shall rewrite the past both spatially and chronologically.

For Constanța Mătușescu one of the most pressing questions emerging today is that of the limits to be set for the development of artificial intelligence and emerging technologies. Some answers are proposed in the article entitled *Evolving Concerns Regarding the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence with an Emphasis on the Human Factors. The European Union’s Approach in the Context of Recent Dynamics and Newest Challenges*.

Claudia Elena Marinică broadly analyses the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on laying down harmonised rules on Artificial Intelligence (Artificial Intelligence Act) and amending certain Union Legislative Acts by reference to the legal basis on which it is founded the drafting process, but also to its effects on the rights of EU citizens.

Alina Mihaela Grigorescu aims to present one of the threats posed by artificial intelligence, illegal surveillance using digital technology, and the response of the Council of Europe and the European Union to this type of threat (*Artificial Intelligence – Between a Threat and an Opportunity*).

Professor Monna-Lisa Belu-Magdo addresses several issues related to *Legal Liability in the Field of Artificial Intelligence*. The author notes that there is an “under-regulation regarding the compensation of damages when the damages were generated by robots endowed with autonomy and cognitive capabilities, which attract a certain degree of behavioural unpredictability, since these robots learn autonomously based on their own experience and act with the environment in an unpredictable way” and “science and technology have far exceeded the legislative framework and the normative void represents a real obstacle for the creative development of technology in the field of artificial intelligence and a factor of erosion of fundamental human rights”.

Alina Raluca Sarchisian explores *The Use of Artificial Intelligence in Judicial Procedures* highlighting the technical characteristics of AI and proposing a mixed solution, based on artificial intelligence assistance in judicial proceedings, as support for judges in adopting decisions.

The article entitled *Future Respect of Human Rights in the Perspective of Artificial Intelligence* by Professors Petre and Bogdan Buneci, deals with topics such as the impact of Artificial Intelligence on present and future social life and the European Declaration on Digital Rights and Principles for the Digital Decade.

Daniela Mituțoiu shows that creating an adequate legal framework to protect whistleblowers became a priority only after it was imposed as an obligation by the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR), in reality they are a vulnerable category to abuses by the authorities, because there is no effective national system for their protection (*Integrity Whistleblower - Myth or Reality?*).

The paper entitled *The “Smartification” Process of the Romanian Local Public Administration: Challenges and Perspectives* by Dragoș Valentin Dincă and Cristina Elena Nicolescu focuses both on the contribution of local authority projects, selected and financed from OPAC 2014-2020, to the building of an “intelligent” local public administration, as well as on the opportunities and challenges to human rights, in this context.

A similar topic is addressed by Gabriela Manea, emphasizing that the effects of AI implementation instantly produce a chain of effects, more or less known, with a positive or negative character, being predictable or not, and which will increase the range of action at a very alert pace, slowly and surely conditioning the progress of society. in its entirety (*Artificial Intelligence, Public Administration. Opportunities and Dangers*).

The need to ensure an adequate legal framework, distinct from or integrated into copyright and related rights legislation is emphasized by Mircea Felix Melinești Ionescu and Rodica Guiu. The aim is to make a clear distinction between legally protected human activity and the activity of new technologies which, when

implemented in the digital system, may give rise to, modify or extinguish pre-existing legal relationships in the sphere of intellectual property rights (*Copyright and Artificial Intelligence - Trends and Challenges*).

The study *Accelerating Academic Productivity through the National Research, Innovation and Smart Specialization Strategy* by Roxana Elena Vișan brings to the forefront a new approach to academic research at a national level, based on EU public policies in the application of the open science system for academic development.

Andreea Georgiana Nicolae is asking *How Artificial Intelligence is Helping Tackle Climate Change?* The answer is that “Artificial intelligence is proving to be a game-changer in addressing the various environmental challenges we face. From climate change modelling and resource management to combating deforestation and advancing clean energy solutions, AI offers innovative approaches that can significantly contribute to sustainability efforts. As we continue to explore and harness the potential of AI, it is vital to ensure ethical and responsible implementation to maximize its positive impact on the environment. By embracing AI and leveraging its capabilities, we can pave the way for a more sustainable and resilient future.”

The last article of the volume is about the measures of protection taken as a response to the displacement of people from Ukraine, due to the military conflict started in February 2022. Ciprian-Constantin Mihai concludes that: “Solidarity in the asylum area with the introduction of temporary protection is a model of analysis, evaluation and monitoring of this fundamental principle for the functioning of the European Union and can be considered a source for the instruments proposed in the new Pact on Migration and Asylum” (*Temporary Protection – Solidarity through Public Administration Responsibility*).

As a general conclusion, the reviewed volume constitutes a collection of very valuable studies, which make an important contribution to the research of the various implications that Artificial Intelligence can have in the legal and administrative field.