

Law, Society and New Technologies in the 21st Century

Abstract

This work focuses on the relationship between legal systems and society's rapidly evolving socio-technological environment. In the first part, it explores the question of the evolution/adaptability of legal systems in response to dynamic socio-technological developments, using the theoretical framework of systems theory. The first part also analyses different models for regulating new technologies, placing them within the logic of systems theory and illustrating them with concrete examples such as Uber and Airbnb and the challenges associated with artificial intelligence and big data.

The second chapter explores the legal and cultural aspects of the technological stagnation thesis, the increasing complexity of legal systems and their socio-technological environments, and questions about how these systems respond to social resistance to new technologies and risk aversion. The trade-off between innovation and security is presented. The third chapter develops the theme of legal system complexity and its relationship to entropy and modern technology.

In the second part, the thesis addresses specific issues, such as the position of AI in law and the possibility of AI becoming a legal entity, including ethical and legal implications. It also discusses the integration of human rights into the development of AI and presents a proposal for an international regulatory system. Finally, it discusses the potential threats of new forms of AI-mediated government, such as AI totalitarianism and AI technocracy.

The fifth chapter focuses on social networks and freedom of expression, reviews digital platforms' role in public discourse and examines different approaches of regulation.

The final chapter focuses on the impact of technology and law in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, exploring issues of electronic surveillance and COVID-19 passports, and how big data and AI can contribute to the fight against the pandemic.

Key words: regulation of new technologies; systems theory of law; artificial intelligence; social media networks; negative human rights; technological stagnation; freedom of speech