





WELCOME TO DURHAM LAW SCHOOL

About Us

Durham Law School is a world-leading law school, ranked joint 49th globally for Law and Legal Studies in the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026, 4th in the UK for Law in The Guardian University Guide 2026 and 3rd in The Complete University Guide 2026.

Acknowledgements

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The Conveners would like to greatly acknowledge the help of their professional services colleagues Alan Dobson (Finance), Hayley Barnes (Research), Hayley Wharton (Operations) and Megan Stenhouse (Communications) in organising this event.

CONVENERS



Dr Mauricio Figueroa is a Career Development Fellow at Durham Law School, specialising in intellectual property and technology law. An interdisciplinary scholar of digital technologies, his research examines the regulation of algorithmic systems, with particular attention to market dynamics and consumer-facing implications. He holds a PhD from Newcastle Law School, an LLM from Tel Aviv University, and an LLB from UNAM. He's a fellow of the Higher Education Academy (AdvanceHE), and an active international speaker. He's a member of the Society for Computers and Law, where he hosts its podcast on law and technology, and is a Northern Law Awards 2026 Teacher of the Year finalist.

**DR MAURICIO
FIGUEROA**

**CDF (Lecturer) IP and Technology Law
Durham University**



Dr Stergios Aidinlis is Associate Professor in AI Law at Durham Law School, specialising in AI governance, digital regulation, data protection, and emerging technologies. His research examines AI accountability, digital public infrastructure, public sector data sharing, and the governance challenges posed by agentic and autonomous systems. He has been Principal Investigator or Co-Investigator on four major research grants at Durham and holds a DPhil in Socio-Legal Studies from the University of Oxford. He has published widely in leading journals and is the author of Big Data for the Public Good and Governing Digital Public Infrastructure.

**DR STERGIOS
AIDINLIS**

**Associate Professor in AI Law
Durham University**

CONVENERS



**DR KASPAR
LUDVIGSEN**

Dr Kaspar Rosager Ludvigsen is Assistant Professor in Medical Law at Durham Law School, Durham University. His interdisciplinary research sits at the intersection of law, technology, cybersecurity, and medical device regulation, with particular expertise in EU law, product regulation, AI regulation, and safety-critical digital systems. His work examines how legal frameworks can respond to the risks posed by connected technologies, software, cyber vulnerabilities, and AI-enabled medical devices. A Danish lawyer with a PhD in Cybersecurity and Law, he has published extensively on medical device cybersecurity, software regulation, adversarial system failures, and supply-chain security.

**Assistant Professor in Medical Law
Durham University**



**DR REBECCA
OWENS**

Dr Rebecca Owens is a Postdoctoral Research Associate in AI Law at Durham Law School where she researches the regulatory, societal, and ethical implications of agentic AI systems through the Horizon Europe ENCIRCLE project. She is also Co-Investigator on a UKFin+ project on AI risk assessment in insurance. Her research focuses on AI governance, cybersecurity and socio-technical approaches to AI accountability and online harms. She holds a PhD in Law, LLM, and LLB from the University of Liverpool. Her interdisciplinary work has appeared in leading law and computer science venues and received a Best Paper Award at the Machine Lawyering Conference 2026 with Dr Stergios Aidinlis.

**Research Associate in AI Law
Durham University**

DAY ONE

14:00 – 14:30

**WELCOME COFFEE
PCL048**



14:30 – 15:00

OPENING REMARKS

**DR ZHIYU LI, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF LAW & POLICY
DURHAM LAW SCHOOL - PCL048**

15:00 – 16:30

**PAPER SESSIONS (PARALLEL)
PCL048 & PCL050**

16:30 – 17:00

COFFEE BREAK PCL048



17:00 – 18:00

PANEL 1 - REGULATING AI, BUT HOW?

- SUE MCLEAN, BIRD & BIRD; SOCIETY FOR COMPUTERS AND LAW
- NOURA AL MOUBAYED, DEPT. OF COMPUTER SCIENCE, DURHAM UNIVERSITY
- NUALA POLO, UK POLICY LEAD, ADA LOVELACE INSTITUTE

CHAIR: STERGIOS AIDINLIS, DURHAM LAW SCHOOL - PCL048

18:00 – 18:30

**Q&A
CLOSING REMARKS - DAY 1 - PCL048**

PAPERS DAY 1

Paper	Author	Discussant	Time and Location
Teaching AI to contextualize the Law: AI-generated definitions from UK statutes and case law	Dr Livio Robaldo, Swansea University	Dr Moritz Osnabrügge, Durham University	15:00-15:45 Chair: Dr Becca Owens PCL048 (Lecture hall)
The Secrecy Paradox: Algorithmic Opacity, and Trade Secret Protection of AI-Powered Medical Devices	Dr Ezinne Igbokwe, University of Sheffield	Dr Stergios Aidinlis, Durham University	15:45-16:30 Chair: Dr Becca Owens PCL048 (Lecture hall)
The Transparency Solution: Governing Algorithms in the UK Music Streaming Industry	Dr Aline Iramina, University of Glasgow	Dr Chao Wang, Durham University	15:00-15:45 Chair: Dr Kaspar Ludvigsen PCL050 (Behind Law Reception)
Algorithmic Entrenchment	Dr Mauricio Figueroa, Durham University	Dr Jiahong Chen, University of Sheffield	15:45-16:30 Chair: Dr Kaspar Ludvigsen PCL050 (Behind Law Reception)

PANEL DAY 1



**SUE
MCLEAN**

Sue McLean is one of the UK's leading technology lawyers, with more than 26 years of experience advising on high-stakes technology transactions, digital transformation programmes, and the legal challenges arising from the development and deployment of emerging technologies. A Partner of Bird & Bird in London, she is a trusted adviser to global financial institutions, FinTech innovators, and technology providers, with in-house experience gained through secondments at Goldman Sachs, Lloyds Banking Group, and Quilter. She also serves as Chair of the Society for Computers and Law (SCL) and founded the SCL Women in Tech Law network.

Bird & Bird; Society for Computers and Law



**NOURA AL
MOUBAYED**

Noura Al Moubayed is a Professor of Machine Learning (ML) and AI at Durham University, where she leads a research lab developing cutting-edge ML and deep learning solutions with a particular focus on healthcare innovation. Over the past 7 years, she has secured more than £12 million in research funding across more than 20 projects supported by EPSRC, Innovate UK, NIHR, ERDF, and UKRI, driving advances at the intersection of AI and real-world applications. Her work has been published in premier venues including ICLR, ICML, ACL, EMNLP, BMJ Oncology, and Nature Scientific Reports, and has attracted international recognition through coverage by the BBC, ITV, Time Magazine, Wired, and New Scientist. She's considered one of UK's Top 20 Women in AI by RE•WORK.

Dept. of Computer Science, Durham University

PANEL DAY 1



Nuala Polo is the UK Public Policy Lead at the Ada Lovelace Institute. Nuala is responsible for developing and delivering Ada's policy and engagement strategy on the governance and regulation of AI in the UK. The Ada Lovelace Institute is an independent research institute with a mission to ensure that data and AI work for people and society.

Before joining Ada, Nuala worked as the AI Assurance Lead in the UK Government's Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT), and she was the UK Delegate for the OECD Working Party on AI Governance.

NUALA POLO

UK Policy Lead, Ada Lovelace Institute



DAY TWO

08:30 – 09:00 **WELCOME COFFEE**
PCL048



09:00 – 10:00

**BOOK TALK: GEOPOLITICAL UNION: EUROPE'S ATTEMPT TO
TAKE BACK CONTROL OF TECHNOLOGY REGULATION.**
BENJAMIN FARRAND - NEWCASTLE LAW SCHOOL

CHAIR: KASPAR LUVIDGSEN, DURHAM LAW SCHOOL - PCL048

10:00 – 11:00

**PANEL 2: REGULATING IDENTITY AND THE BODY: BIOMETRICS,
FACIAL RECOGNITION AND SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGIES**

- **CATHERINE EASTON, LANCASTER UNIVERSITY**
- **PARDIS TEHRANI, THE UNIVERSITY OF SUNDERLAND**

CHAIR: STERGIOS AIDINLIS, DURHAM LAW SCHOOL

PCL048

11:00 – 11:30

Q&A DISCUSSION
PCL048

11:30 – 13:00

PAPER SESSIONS (PARALLEL)
PCL048 & PCL050

13:00 – 14:00

FAREWELL LUNCH
PCL048



PAPERS DAY 2

Paper	Author	Discussant	Time and Location
Computational Law and Cybersecurity	Dr Kaspar Ludvigsen, Durham University	Dr Aline Iramina, University of Glasgow	11:30-12:15 Chair: Dr Mauricio Figueroa PCL048 (Lecture hall)
Smart Social Contract: A Participatory Approach to Policy Research on Regulating Smartified Public Communications	Dr Jiahong Chen, University of Sheffield	Dr Kaspar Ludvigsen, Durham University	12:15-13:00 Chair: Dr Mauricio Figueroa PCL048 (Lecture hall)
AI Governance in China: Recent Developments	Dr Chao Wang et al, Durham University and others	Dr Ezinne Igbokwe, University of Sheffield	11:30-12:15 Chair: Dr Zhiyu Li PCL050 (Behind Law Reception)
The Evidential Reliability of Agentic Systems: A Socio-Technical Framework for Industrial Liability	Dr Stergios Aidinlis and Dr Becca Owens et al, Durham University	Dr Livio Robaldo, Swansea University	12:15-13:00 Chair: Dr Zhiyu Li PCL050 (Behind Law Reception)

PANEL DAY 2



**CATHERINE
EASTON**

Professor Catherine Easton is a Professor of Information Technology and Intellectual Property Law at Lancaster University, where she was Head of Department. Her research focuses on internet governance, intellectual property, access to technology, human-computer interaction, and technology-enhanced legal education. She has also served as Co-Chair of the Internet Rights and Principles Dynamic Coalition of the United Nations Internet Governance Forum, contributing to international discussions on digital rights and technology policy.

Lancaster University



**PARDIS
TEHRANI**

Dr Pardis M. Tehrani is Head of Sunderland Law School and a scholar specialising in information technology law, international humanitarian law, and legal research methodology. She has authored more than 70 publications, including research papers, book chapters, and books, with her work appearing in leading international legal and technology law outlets. A regular contributor to international conferences, policy forums, and human rights organisations, her recent research has explored the regulatory challenges arising from the convergence of artificial intelligence and blockchain technologies.

University of Sunderland

BOOK TALK



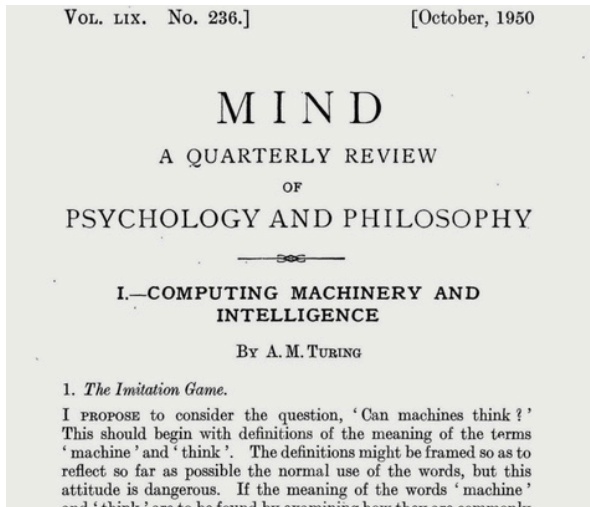
Professor Benjamin Farrand is Chair of Law and Emerging Technologies and Deputy Head of Newcastle Law School. His interdisciplinary research examines the relationship between law, policy, and emerging technologies, with particular expertise in cybersecurity, online harms, digital copyright enforcement, and the regulation of cross-border trade in counterfeit goods. He holds a PhD in Law from the European University Institute and is a Senior Fellow of Advance HE. He's the author of the book "Geopolitical Union: Europe's attempt to take back control of technology regulation", published by Cambridge University Press.

**BEN
FARRAND**

Newcastle University

GEOPOLITICAL UNION: EUROPE'S ATTEMPT TO TAKE BACK CONTROL OF TECHNOLOGY REGULATION

From the rise of China as a technological superpower, to wars on its eastern borders, to the belief that the US is no longer a reliable ally, the European Commission sees the world as more unstable than at any other time in recent history. As such, the Commission has become the Geopolitical Commission, working to serve the interests of the Geopolitical Union. Central to many of these conflicts is technology – who produces it, where it is produced, and who controls it. These questions are central to the Commission's pursuit of digital/technological sovereignty, Europe's attempt to regain control of technology regulation. Focusing on topics such as setting technological standards, ensuring access to microchips, reining in online platforms, and securing rules for industrial data and AI, this book explores the EU's approach to lawmaking in this field; increased regulatory oversight and promotion of industrial policy at home, while exporting its rules abroad.



THANK YOU
FOR PARTICIPATING

