

CALL FOR PAPERS

The role of science in legal research

Aarhus University, Department of Law is pleased to announce a call for papers for a workshop on *The role of science in legal research*. The workshop will take place on 11–12 January 2024 at the Department of Law, Aarhus University, Denmark. The workshop is preceded by a PhD course for doctoral students dedicated to the same topic (10–11 January 2024).

Science is the study of the structure and behaviour of the physical world, specifically by data collecting and analyzing, observing, and conducting experiments. In its turn, law is a set of rules that is adopted and applied to order the way in which a society behaves. Law and science interact in different ways, as scientific advances shape our understanding of not only risks and possibilities, but also fairness. Two main types of interactions can be discerned. First, legislators turn to science when crafting new legal rules and adjudicators use the terminology and concepts of science to interpret legal norms (internalization of science into law). Second, law defers to science to answer core legal questions (externalization of the problems of law). Examples of such interactions are many, including, the patentability of new medications, defining the levels of environmental risks, using the insanity defense in criminal proceedings, copyright issues and AI, and understanding consumers' perception of green products. Concepts and data originating from various scientific fields, such as other social science branches, bioscience and engineering, are central to legal development and application of law, and thus to legal research. This challenges our traditional understanding of legal research as purely 'the stringent application of legal research methods on sources of law to answer legal questions'. With rapid scientific advances, the interaction of law and science is becoming more important than ever before.

The workshop aims to examine how law and science intersect and how our legal systems respond to both the opportunities and the challenges created by scientific progress. The workshop acts as a platform for scholars, practitioners and doctoral students to come together and discuss interactions of law and science and discuss the opportunities, challenges and solutions to them.

Keynote speakers include Nicolas de Sadeleer, Professor of EU Law and of Environmental Law, Jean Monnet Chair at Saint-Louis University, Brussels.

Paper proposals are welcome from scholars, practitioners, researchers as well as government, business and civil society representatives with a particular interest in this area.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- the interaction of law and science in the legislative and policy-making process;
- precautionary principle, law and science;
- high level of scientific uncertainty and law;
- evidence, law and science;
- the use of science in adjudication;
- the interaction of science and law in individual legal disciplines, such as environmental law, IT law and criminal law.

Submission of proposals

Abstracts of max. 500 words with a short bio should be submitted via e-mail to Viktoria Obolevich (vao@law.au.dk) by **1 November 2023**.

Authors will be informed about the final decision on their proposals by **15 November 2023**.

Contact persons

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Financing

There is no registration fee for the workshop, and meals, coffee and refreshments will be covered for all participants. Presenters will be invited to join the workshop dinner on 11 January 2024.

The workshop is funded by the Carlsberg Foundation.