



# LETs

LAW, EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES &  
SCIENCE



## Faculty of Liberal Arts and Sciences



### LETs jingle all the way!

Can you smell the ginger and spices?  
Christmas is just around the corner!

Although it may not be the December that we expected, let's have fun, enjoy ourselves, spread the joy and remind all the people we love how much they mean to us.

Happy holidays!

*Isabelle de Oliveira, editor in chief*



## November News:

### [Coronavirus: Hackers targeted Covid vaccine supply 'cold chain'](#)

The international vaccine supply chain has been targeted by cyber-espionage, according to IBM. The company says it tracked a campaign aimed at the delivery "cold chain" used to keep vaccines at the right temperature during transportation. The attackers' identity is unclear - but IBM said the sophistication of their methods indicated a nation state.

### ['Ditch high definition and new tech to fight climate change'](#)

Streaming a television show in standard definition can shave a little off your carbon emissions, a report from scientists at the UK's Royal Society says. The report says digital technology's estimated contribution to global emissions ranges from 1.4% to 5.9% of the global total. But some of the numbers in the report are contested.

### [New Internet Protocol Aims to Give Users Control of Their Digital Identities](#)

The @ Company wants to give you a more secure and human-centric Internet built on

providing you with true ownership and control of your personal data. Every bit of personal information online is acquired, stored, organized, and used to sell to, track, and even profile everyone on the planet -- including you, according to Barbara Tallent, co-founder and CEO of The @ Company.

### **Massachusetts on the verge of becoming first state to ban police use of facial recognition**

Massachusetts lawmakers this week voted to ban the use of facial recognition by law enforcement and public agencies in a sweeping police reform bill that received significant bipartisan support. If signed into law, Massachusetts would become the first state to fully ban the technology

### **Google illegally spied on workers before firing them, US labor board alleges**

Google violated US labor laws by spying on workers who were organizing employee protests, then firing two of them, according to a complaint filed by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) today. If Google chooses not to settle, the complaint will go before an administrative judge in the coming months, according to The New York Times. The company could be forced to pay back wages to both Berland and Spiers, and rehire them if it loses the case.

### **COVID-19: Facebook to start removing vaccine misinformation - but warns it won't be able to do so 'overnight'**

The change to the company's policies follows the UK becoming the first country in the world to approve the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine for public use. It follows months of criticisms of Facebook, alongside other social media platforms, for what some have perceived to be their inadequate response to false information during the coronavirus pandemic.

### **Web Summit: Oculus co-founder talks China and military AI**

Virtual reality firm Oculus VR's co-founder has accused other tech chiefs of refusing to work with the US military for fear of alienating China. AI has been described as the third revolution in warfare, after gunpowder and nuclear weapons. There are fears that autonomous AI-powered soldiers could find their way on to the battleground in future.

## EVENTS

Please note, when clicking on the title of each event, it will take you directly to the website to sign up.

### 9th of December

#### **"Digital human rights and the future of democracy: Lessons from the pandemic" (15:00-16:30)**

The Annual Lecture 2020, chaired by STOA Chair Eva KAILI (S&D, Greece), will investigate the challenges associated with the growing datafication of our societies and the need to reclaim data sovereignty in the era of artificial intelligence.

### 11th of December

#### **"Trust....and tech governance" (14:00-15:00)**

Benefits, risks and public trust in technology innovations are usually the focus of political and societal attention. Almost entirely overlooked is the need for the governance of these technologies, in its own right, to be trustworthy and to earn trust.

### 12th of December

#### **"The Young Wigs Conference 2020 - LEGACY" (8:00-14:00)**

This is a community of young lawyers designed to bridge the skills gap between young, upwardly mobile Lawyers and the realities of the practice of Law while encouraging innovation and creative skills for effective use of technology in today's legal sphere.

### 14th of December

#### **"Social Media and AI and Homelessness Prevention: Ample Labs x Twitter CA" (17:00-18:00)**

Discover how local Niagara Region change-makers are using tech to make their organizations more accessible, and how international social media platforms, like Twitter, are playing a role.

### 15th of December

#### **"Data Protection in the UK Post Brexit" (11:00-12:00)**

Join CyberCX's Data Protection Specialist Melanie Woodcock as she talks about post-Brexit data protection and provides practical tips on the key steps organisations need to

act on. Melanie will also provide valuable insights into your data protection questions during an interactive Q & A session.

## **17th of December**

### **"Online Advocacy and the PSC" (11:00-12:00)**

This webinar, presented by Rebecca Attree, is designed to introduce the key skills, techniques and best practice for online advocacy. It explores what you need to consider when representing clients to be an effective and persuasive online advocate.

### **"Online Image-Based Abuse - Legal and Social Challenges for Adults & Minors" (18:30-19:30)**

Based upon a newly published book, Andy will explore the key issues in supporting victims and contrast social and legal perspectives on how this might be tackled. In particular, he will explore the current legislative mess around protecting/prosecuting minors for engaging in these practices.

## **27th of December**

### **"Remote Chaos Experience – rC3"**

rC3 will be a variety of distributed small local events in hackspaces with a joint program of streamed talks, online workshops, art, culture and various forms of networked togetherness.

## **Opportunities**

### **Internship Experience UK - Technology**

The technology sector is rapidly expanding and employers are constantly on the lookout for bright graduate talent to join their teams. Contrary to popular belief, you don't always need a STEM degree to land a tech-focused graduate role – take part in this virtual internship experience to find out how you can break into this exciting and innovative sector.

### **Early-stage researcher (PhD) in Privacy and Information Management**

Motivated researchers are invited to apply for a PhD position funded for 28 months researching Privacy Paradigm Policy Classification with Castlebridge through Trinity

College Dublin as part of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Network, PROTECT – ‘Protecting Personal Data Amidst Big Data Innovation’.

Deadline: 17th of December.

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## Read/Write/Listen

### **Tech's woke CEO takes the stage**

Salesforce founder Marc Benioff wants to break up Facebook, has pushed for higher taxes on his industry and says capitalism ‘as we know it’ is over. And Washington is listening.

### **The Defamation Act and the Public Interest: Part 1, Corporate Claimants, An Alternative view - Jonethan Coad**

The purpose of this article is to challenge Mr Vassall-Adams’ underlying assumption that a viable law of defamation as it applies to corporate entities trading for profit – especially large ones – is inherently undesirable unless “ *serious financial loss*” can be proved which he acknowledges may well be difficult for large companies.

### **An EU anti-SLAPP Directive: A Proposal – Dirk Voorhoof**

A resolution of the European Parliament ‘on strengthening media freedom: the protection of journalists in Europe hate speech, disinformation and the role of platforms’ of 25 November 2020 also urges the European Commission to take action against the use of SLAPPs.

### **Podcast: Wrongful Convictions, Making a Murderer, and Social Media with Laura Nirider**

Host Dan Linna talks to Laura Nirider about wrongful convictions in the US and how social media can help address and reduce their occurrence.

### **The way we train AI is fundamentally flawed**

The process used to build most of the machine-learning models we use today can't tell if they will work in the real world or not—and that's a problem.

### **Digital Inclusion in Health and Care**

COVID-19 has changed the dial on digital. At home, at work, in our communities, in hospitals and care settings, digital has been central to our national response, and a lifeline during lockdown for those with the access, skills and confidence to benefit.

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## **Interesting fact of the month**

Have you seen the latest news about the monolith? The first one appeared in **Utah** mysteriously and has now been removed. Then, a similar monolith appeared in **Romania**. Now, another one has appeared in **California**. Some say aliens are sending us a message while others believe this is just a big joke totally human-made.

Now, people cannot go randomly installing property as that is against the law, but they still have not found an explanation to those monoliths. What do you think? Are aliens trying to contact us? Are they using those monoliths to amplify a signal for their modern technology? Let us know what you think!





## LETS Make a Change

Technology does also play a role in being more sustainable and can help us learn more about how we can help on a daily basis. There are some actions suggested by the UN that you can do to help:

### 1. Switch off

By turning off your lights and using energy-efficient lightbulbs, you can reduce your energy consumption and save money. If people worldwide switched to energy-efficient light bulbs, the world would save US\$120 billion annually.

### 2. Plant-based meals



Vegetables, fruits, whole grains, legumes, nuts, and seeds, and lower in animal-based foods, have a lower environmental impact (greenhouse gas emissions and energy, land, and water use).

### 3. Recycle

Where waste cannot be avoided, recycling leads to substantial resource savings. For every tonne of paper recycled, 17 trees and 50% of water can be saved. Only 9% of all plastic waste ever produced has been recycled. About 12% has been incinerated, while the rest — 79% — has accumulated in landfills, dumps or the natural environment.

## Contact Us

We are always happy to hear from you – if you have any ideas, comments, wish to join us, or simply wish to connect drop us a line at [letslabnews@gmail.com](mailto:letslabnews@gmail.com)

If someone has forwarded this to you and you would like to receive our monthly newsletter, you can subscribe by visiting this link <http://eepurl.com/hfzKfL>

Please check our social media accounts by clicking on the icons below. There we will keep you updated throughout the month!

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"Do something today that your future self will thank you for"



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