

CALL FOR PAPERS

Algorithmic Sovereignty and Democratic Integrity in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

Introduction

As part of the 1st International Conference on Algorithmic Sovereignty and Democratic Integrity in the Age of Artificial Intelligence, to be held on 12 November 2026 at the University of Coimbra Institute for Legal Research, the Organising Committee invites submissions for papers to be presented in Panel IV.

Thematic Framework

The first three panels address: (I) the effects of AI on democratic integrity, electoral processes, the public sphere, information, and legal authority; (II) the emergence of new rights, proportionality, explainability, trust, and structural safeguards; and (III) human autonomy, democratic vulnerability, moral responsibility, and fundamental ethical limits.

Panel IV will welcome contributions that deepen, complement, or challenge these themes, broadening the debate through new methods, topics, and comparative approaches. Its aim is to provide a space for innovative research and for scholars at different career stages to explore the intersections between AI, democracy, and algorithmic sovereignty, strengthening interdisciplinary dialogue and the event's research agenda. Proposals should address, among others, the following topics:

1. Democracy, the public sphere, and algorithmic governance

- The impact of AI on the public conception of the State
- Electoral integrity and generative AI
- Algorithmic political advertising
- Recommender systems, visibility, and informational power
- Disinformation, attention, and media pluralism
- AI and the administration of justice

2. Digital constitutionalism and rights in the algorithmic society

- New fundamental rights (the rights to explainability, contestability, and auditability)
- Non-discrimination, algorithmic fairness, and social justice
- Freedom of expression and content moderation
- Proportionality and AI in the public sector

3. Science-law interfaces and technical architectures

- Alignment between legal norms and technical standards (explainability, robustness, safety and security)
- Automation in the public sector (courts, public administration, police)
- Impact assessments and algorithmic audits

4. Algorithmic sovereignty and global technology governance

- Capacities to govern data, platforms, and infrastructure
- Tensions between digital sovereignty and platform capitalism
- AI in democratic and authoritarian regimes
- Digital security, cyber resilience, and critical infrastructure
- AI, sovereignty, and military defence

5. AI ethics, autonomy, and democratic responsibility

- Human autonomy in AI systems
- Democratic vulnerability and epistemic capture
- Digital public ethics
- Accountability and moral responsibility in autonomous systems

6. Emerging perspectives

- The metaverse, virtual sovereignty, and digital rights
- Brain-machine interfaces, cognition, and new liberty rights
- Comparative and innovative empirical studies
- Critical epistemologies of AI and structural inequalities

Submission Guidelines

Abstracts (250–350 words) must include: title, research problem, methodology, expected contribution, 4–6 keywords, the author's name, and a biographical note (100–150 words) stating the author's affiliation, ORCID, and academic degree.

Proposals must be sent to niedja.santos@ij.uc.pt by **30 September 2026**. Selected authors will be notified by 15 October. Papers will be presented on 12 November 2026 (15 minutes each, followed by discussion). Some authors may be invited to submit a full paper for an edited volume.

Contact for Enquiries

niedja.santos@ij.uc.pt | Subject: CFP – Algorithmic Sovereignty & Democracy



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Sociedades Técnicas