Call for Papers for the 2020 International Symposium on

"The Digital State: Digitalisation of Public Administration and Public Administration of Digital Technologies"

Deadline for participation: 1st December 2019

1. Presentation of the call for Papers

After having gained a pivotal role for virtually all social, economic and democratic interactions, Digital technologies have become essential tools for law researchers and practitioners from all over the world.

Public Administrations – be they at the state, sub-state or supranational level –- find themselves unprepared and shocked by digitalisation processes, which are often imposed, at a time when digital technologies are not an option anymore and become necessary to meet the imperatives efficiency and effectiveness.

In such context, the era of governmental reform through the creation of new independent authorities and agencies is now replaced by a new period of restructuration, aimed at stimulating a transition to the "**Digital state**." This new conception of the state is characterised by the digitalisation of public services, the extensive use of public and personal data, the introduction of algorithmic tools, the encouragement to develop applications of artificial intelligence and the move towards "the platformisation of the state."

This call for papers aims to – but is not limited to –analyse three fundamental dimensions of the debate concerning "Digital State: Digitalisation of Public Administration and Public Administration of Digital Technologies", with particular regard to:

a) A mapping exercise aimed at analysing **the organizational structure and attributions of existing Public Administrations**, having a regulatory functions with regard to subjects that are categorised or can be categorised as "digital technologies" or having a strong link with "digital technologies", such as data protection authorities, regulatory bodies for electronic networks, content, online games, etc.;

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b) The analysis of specific examples of tools that public administrations are currently developing and using to digitise their services, for example by providing digital public services through platforms such as Nesta, in the UK, FranceConnect, in France.

c) The analysis and comparison of national strategies currently developed or implemented to "digitize" public administration. This research avenue will focus both on the analysis of global and integrated digitization strategies, such as the Brazilian "*Estratégia Digital*"; on the development of public-purpose programmes aimed at "translating into data" all public administration and building digital public services, such as the French "Etalab"; and capacity building strategies for the development of digital skills of public servants.

All participants to this call are encouraged to reflect on the impacts that the Digitalisation of Public Administration and Public Administration of Digital Technologies deploy on the possibility to exercise fundamental rights and freedoms. Such analyses may consider and compare national, sub-national or regional frameworks.

It is possible to analyse more than one of the abovementioned research avenues, for example by introducing the national strategy for the digitization of public administration in a specific country and, subsequently, exploring a specific programme or digitalisation tool. Comparative studies, analysing the differences between several national approaches are encouraged, as well as multidisciplinary analyses, for example using data science to support the findings with empirical evidence; or economic analysis to explore the costs and benefits of a specific approach.

The international symposium of the CDPC will take place on **the 23rd and 24th of April 2020** and the works presented at the colloquium will be published by Editions Panthéon-Assas. Contributions should be preferably be in French, but English studies will be accepted.

2. Timeline

- Deadline for submitting a summary of 2000 words: 1st of December 2019
- Communication of selected abstracts: 15th of January 2020
- Deadline for sending a contribution of 5000 to 7000 words: 30th of March 2020
- Date of the symposium: 23rd and 24th of April
- Deadline for sending a final contribution, from 6,000 to 8,000 words: 15th of July 2020
- Publication: November 2020