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Bart Custers · Eduard Fosch-Villaronga
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Law and Artificial Intelligence

Regulating AI and Applying AI in Legal Practice

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Bart Custers
Eduard Fosch-Villaronga

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Prof. Bart Custers Ph.D. M.Sc. LLM is a (full) professor of Law and Data Science and the director of eLaw, Center for Law and Digital Technologies at Leiden University, the Netherlands. He has a background in both law and physics and is an expert in the area of law and digital technologies, including topics like profiling, big data, privacy, discrimination, cybercrime, technology in policing, and artificial intelligence. As a researcher and project manager, he acquired and executed research for the European Commission, NWO (the National Research Council in the Netherlands), the Dutch national government, local government agencies, large corporations, and SMEs. Until 2016, he was the head of the research department on Crime, Law enforcement and Sanctions of the scientific research center (WODC) of the ministry of security and justice in the Netherlands. Before that, he worked for the national government as a senior policy advisor for consecutive ministers of justice (2009–2013) and for a large consultancy firm as a senior management consultant on information strategies (2005–2009). On behalf of the Faculty of Law, he is the coordinator of the SAILS project. This project, funded by the Executive Board of Leiden University, deals with the societal and legal implications of artificial intelligence.

He published three books on profiling, privacy, discrimination, and big data, two books on the use of drones, and one book on the use of bitcoins for money laundering cybercrime profits. On a regular basis, he gives lectures on profiling, privacy and big data and related topics. He has presented his work at international conferences in the United States, Canada, China, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Thailand, the Middle East, and throughout Europe. He has published his work, over a hundred publications, in scientific and professional journals and in newspapers.

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Eduard published the book "Robots, Healthcare, and the Law. Regulating Automation in Personal Care" with Routledge and is interested in human–robot interaction, responsible innovation, and the future of law. He was the PI of LIAISON (2020–2021), an FSTP from the H2020 COVR project that aims to link robot development and policymaking to reduce the complexity in robot legal compliance. He was also the co-leader of the Ethical, Legal, and Societal Aspects Working Group at the H2020 Cost Action 16116 on Wearable Robots and participates actively at the Social Responsibility Working Group at the H2020 Cost Action 19121 GoodBrother. In 2020, he served the European Commission in the Sub-Group on Artificial Intelligence (AI), connected products and other new challenges in product safety to the Consumer Safety Network (CSN) to revise the General Product Safety directive.

Previously, he was the recipient of a personal Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Researcher under the COFUND LEaDing Fellows at the eLaw Center for Law and Digital Technologies at Leiden University (NL) (Jan 2019–Dec 2020). He also was a postdoc at the Microsoft Cloud Computing Research Center at Queen Mary University of London (the UK, 2018) investigating the legal implications of cloud robotics; and at the University of Twente (NL, 2017) as a postdoc, exploring iterative regulatory modes for robot governance. He holds an Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctorate (EMJD) in Law, Science, and Technology coordinated by the University of Bologna (IT, 2017), an LL.M. from University of Toulouse (FR, 2012), an M.A. from the Autonomous University of Madrid (ES), and an LL.B. from the Autonomous University of Barcelona (CAT, 2011). He is also a qualified lawyer in Spain, fluent in Catalan, Spanish, English, Italian and French.