Discrimination and Privacy in the Information Society
Effects of Automated Decision-Making in Databases

Call for papers

eLaw@Leiden, the Centre for Law in the Information Society of Leiden University, the Netherlands, invites you to contribute a chapter in a book on Discrimination in the Information Society. The book will consist of contributions based on our research results of the project Data Mining without Discrimination\(^1\) together with your contribution as a leading expert in this area.

Vast amounts of data are nowadays collected, stored and processed. These data are used for making all kinds of administrative and governmental decisions. Reaching decisions based on objectively collected data may prevent discrimination, which otherwise would have resulted from any bias and prejudice that decision makers may have. However, at the same time, it is common knowledge that most databases contain errors. Data may not be collected properly, data may be corrupted or missing, and data may be biased or contain noise. In addition, the process of analysing the data might include biases and flaws of its own. This may lead to discrimination. For instance, when police surveillance takes place only in minority neighbourhoods, their databases would be heavily tilted towards such minorities. Thus, when searching for criminals in the database, they will only find minority criminals.

Since databases contain large amounts of data, they are increasingly analyzed in automated ways. Among others, data mining technology is applied to statistically determine patterns and trends in large amounts of data. The patterns and trends, however, may easily be abused, as they often lead to unwanted or unjustified selection. This may result in the discrimination of particular groups.

This book will deal with the ways in which new technologies, particularly data mining, profiling and other technologies that collect and process data, may prevent or result in discriminatory effects. Focus of the book will also be on the question how and to what extent legal and ethical rules can be integrated in technologies, such as data mining algorithms, to prevent such abuse. This issue is increasingly important because principles such as “need to know” and “select before you collect” seem difficult to implement and enforce, whereas transparency and accountability focus on the use of data instead. Access controls are increasingly inadequate in a world of automated and interlinked databases and information networks, in which individuals are rapidly losing grip on who is using their information and for what purposes, particularly due to the ease of copying and disseminating information.

Because of the speed with which many of the technological developments take place, particularly in the field of data mining and profiling, it is sometimes difficult for people without a technological background to understand how these technologies work and what impact the may have. This book tries to explain the latest technological developments with regard to data mining and profiling and may as such be interesting to scientists in other disciplines, such as law, ethics, sociology, politics and public administration, and other people who may be confronted with large amounts of information in their work.

\(^1\) For more information on this research project sponsored by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO), see [http://www.is.win.tue.nl/~tcalders/dadm/doku.php](http://www.is.win.tue.nl/~tcalders/dadm/doku.php)
We invite contributions focusing on legal, ethical, social and technological issues of data mining and discrimination. Topics include, but are not limited to:

- Data Mining
- Discrimination
- Profiling
- Databases
- Privacy
- Redlining
- Masking
- Classification
- Criminal Law
- Information Security
- Transparency
- Anonymity

All papers will be peer-reviewed by members of our program committee and other independent reviewers (where necessary) and will be published in an edited book with ISBN. Previously published peer-reviewed papers will also be considered, provided the author or authors are granted license from the publisher and the publication information are noted in the contribution.

For each contribution, authors must provide an abstract of 150-250 words and five keywords. Each contribution should contain no more than 15 pages or 7000 words, including references. Longer papers may be allowed upon request. All photos, tables and figures must be in jpg format. Papers must be submitted in the correct template, according to the author guidelines.

**Deadlines**

Submission deadline expression of interest: title, author, abstract and keywords: April 1st 2011

Submission deadline for full papers: July 1st 2011

Notification of acceptance: August 15th 2010

Submission of final camera-ready version: September 1st 2011

**Editors and Publisher**

Editors:
- Bart Custers PhD MSc, Leiden University
- Tal Zarsky PhD LLM, Haifa University
- Bart Schermer PhD LLM, Leiden University
- Toon Calders PhD, Eindhoven University of Technology
A list of publishers was contacted, several of them have expressed their interest. Publication of this book is funded by NWO, the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research. This funding is already granted. The book will be published both as a hardcopy and as open access copy via the publishing company’s website.

Submission

Send submissions to: dr. Bart Custers: bartcusters@planet.nl
Any further questions can be sent to this email address.

Author Guidelines

Author guidelines will be distributed after the decision is made who will publish the book.