



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI BERGAMO

Dipartimento
di Lingue, Letterature
e Culture Straniere

The Digitalisation of Legal Discourse: Digital Genres, Media and Analytical Tools

ILLA (International Language and Law Association) 2021 Focus Conference

16-17 December 2021

University of Bergamo, Rooms 1 and 2, Piazza Rosate, 2, Bergamo
and online

Digitalisation is changing the system of law profoundly, and jurisprudence is inevitably evolving in a digital environment (Boehme-Neßler, 2008). This process represents not only a challenge, but also a potential way for the law to revitalise itself in terms of accessibility. In this respect, scholarly investigation should focus on two key aspects of the digitalization of law: (1) observing how new technology is redefining the manner in which legal services are offered, and (2) discussing to what degree new digital genres and media, whether considered from a linguistic, communicative, or legal perspective, are becoming critically important for both the fulfilment of justice and the understanding of law on the part of the public at large. Thus, the analysis of digital legal practices as social action opens up a series of questions: How do the exigencies of internet technology interplay with the constraints of established legilinguistic conventions? To what extent are the formalities of legal language preserved in "new" genres and media such as forums, blogs, or social networking sites? How do the demands of these practices, such as the need to attract and maintain an audience, influence the processes of knowledge popularisation and dissemination?

This Focus Conference aims to provide a forum for discussion for the investigation of Legal Discourse from a digital humanities' perspective. It also aims to create opportunities for an integration of the work of the linguists, computer scientists, and legal scholars who focus on analysis of the processes related to the digitalisation of law and its popularisation in "new" genres and media.

The Conference provides an interdisciplinary platform for researchers, practitioners, and educators to present the most recent innovations, trends, and concerns, as well as any solutions already adopted in their professional areas. Their insights will converge in a truly multidisciplinary effort to devise and build advanced networks of knowledge to facilitate the interpretation of data in the field of legal linguistics with a specific focus on digitalisation processes which concern legal discourse.

The topics envisaged for discussion include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Digitalisation of justice (e.g. digital practices for the solution of disputes)
- Mediatization of law
- Popularisation and dissemination of law via digital tools (e.g. blogs, forums, websites, social networking sites, etc.)

The working language of the conference is English.



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Invited Speakers:

Jan Engberg, Aarhus University
Victoria Guillén Nieto, University of Alicante
Dieter Stein, Heinrich-Heine-University Düsseldorf

Scientific Committee:

Patrizia Anesa, University of Bergamo
Ismael Arinas Pellón, Polytechnic University of Madrid
Vijay Bhatia, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Jan Engberg, Aarhus University
Maurizio Gotti, University of Bergamo
Alissa Hartig, Portland State University
Stefania Maci, University of Bergamo
Azianura Hani Shaari, National University of Malaysia
Girolamo Tessuto, University of Campania 'Luigi Vanvitelli'

Organizing committee (University of Bergamo):

Stefania Consonni
Larissa D'Angelo
Michele Sala
Cinzia Spinzi
Virginia Zorzi

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