

Highlights 2018

Two new ERC projects

iCourts researchers were very successful with their 2018 applications to the European Research Council (ERC). The ERC decided to fund two iCourts projects as ERC Starting Grants with budgets of around 11 million DKR each. The projects will run from 2019 to 2023/24 and will contribute directly to the overall agenda of the centre. In this context we envisage setting up two additional sub-groups in the centre which will have significant impact on the training of a new generation of scholars. The two projects will employ around 10 postdocs and PhD-students, as well as add resources to our common data unit. The grants are the first ERC grants at the host institution and will help opening up this avenue for further funding.

Publication of massive project on International Court Authority

2018 saw the completion of a large-scale empirical inquiry into the formation of authority of international courts. Challenging existing scholarship and providing a new framework for understanding the notion of authority, the book *International Court Authority* (Oxford UP 2018) brings together a stellar group of scholars who investigate the challenges that international courts face in transforming their formal legal authority conferred by states into an actual authority in fact that is respected by potential litigants, national actors, legal communities, and publics. The book covers international courts operating in Africa, Latin America, and Europe, as well as on a global level and use a uniform theoretical framework for explaining the significant variations in the authority of international courts across the globe. Reviewers have already deemed it a “masterwork” and “A must read for the designers of future international courts, for every international judge, and of course for scholars of international adjudication”.¹

Expansion of iCourts’ big data law projects

iCourts has pioneered the use of big data in legal analysis. The portfolio of activities in this regard will be expanded substantially with the help of two new grants: PACTA and COLLAGE. The overall aim of PACTA is to contribute new, research-based knowledge about how algorithmic decision making can be implemented in public administration without undermining the legality of administrative decision-making processes or losing public trust in the authorities that use this technology. The aim of COde, Law, and LanguAGE (COLLAGE) is to investigate how linguistic framing affects legal responses to new technology, specifically genetic modification and algorithmic decision making. COLLAGE will explore how a change in the language, which is used to describe a new technology, can affect a change in judgment and choice of precedent.

¹ <https://global.oup.com/academic/product/international-court-authority-9780198795582?cc=dk&lang=en&#>