

Against Algorithmic Transparency: The Perils and Limitations of Opening the Black Box

Dr Shen Weiwei

Associate Professor, China University of Political Science and Law

Chairperson: Associate Professor Daniel Seng, Faculty of Law, NUS

DATE, TIME & VENUE

Thursday, 9 November 2023

1.15pm to 2.15pm

NUS Law (Bukit Timah Campus), Federal Bartholomew Conference Room (FED-01-02)

ABSTRACT

As the problems with algorithms have become common and apparent, legal scholars have begun to consider how to govern algorithms. Among a variety of legal solutions, algorithmic transparency is, practically and theoretically, a well-known regulatory principle, which has attracted significant attention in recent years. However, as ex ante regulation, algorithmic transparency has inherent limitations. Although algorithmic transparency can alleviate some “black box” problems, this article demonstrates that algorithmic transparency is often neither feasible nor necessary.

This article further argues that the role of algorithmic transparency in algorithm governance should be a subsidiary one and should not be applied in every case. Based on a critical analysis of algorithmic transparency, this article attempts to reconstruct the algorithm governance theory and further argues that compare to essentialism-driven ex ante regulation, pragmatism-driven ex post regulation is a more appropriate regulatory strategy.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER



Weiwei Shen is an Associate Professor in China University of Political Science and Law, and the Director of Center for Legal Studies on Big Data and Artificial Intelligence. As a Dean's Scholar, he holds an SJD degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

Prior to that, he studied at Oxford Internet Institute and Tsinghua Law School. His research area covers constitutional law and Internet law.

REGISTRATION



There is no registration fee for this seminar, but seats are limited. Refreshments will be provided on a first-come-first-served basis.

Visit <https://bit.ly/3taKCYZ> or scan the QR Code to register by 2 November 2023, 5.00pm

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