

Research Lab 5

“Legal Data Science”

Organized by
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Friday 23 September 2016,
13.30—15.30 hours
Sterrewacht C0.02



Big Data points to (regards?) activities that involve the analysis of (mostly) high volumes of a great diversity of data by using datamining techniques (data analytics). Digitization of society has augmented the amount of data that can be collected, stored and used for many different purposes. In addition, new technologies and services, such as smart phones, smart watches, social media and search engines, have opened up a great potential for data analytics.

Data analytics as a research method allows detecting unexpected patterns (correlations) in such data sets. Lawyers also collect and analyze considerable amounts of data in their professional and academic work, although these are mostly not perceived as data (but rather books, law, case law, ...). Data analytics can, however, potentially also be used as a new method of doing research in the legal, and related, domains. For example, new insights can emerge from analyzing case law through data analytics which could not have been found with traditional legal research methods.

The Leiden Center for Data Science (LCDS) brings together many different academic disciplines across Leiden University that use data analytics in their research. Currently, a graduate school is being established within the LCDS, in which all faculties of Leiden University, including our own, will participate. Next year, 2 PhD students will be appointed at Leiden Law School as part of the LCDS graduate school.

The *purpose* of this Research Lab on Legal Data Science is to inform colleagues at Leiden Law School of data analytics as a new method for research and discuss in what ways this method can potentially be applied in the legal and other related domains. The Lab also serves as a laboratory for ideas and plans regarding the two PhD positions.

Programme

13.30 Opening by the organizers

13.40 Presentations

- Bart Custers (Leiden University/eLaw)
- Marc Dechesne (Leiden University)
- Marc van Opijnen (Publications Office of the Netherlands)

14.45 Break

15.00 Discussion



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