The Cyberjustice Laboratory

4 Platforms, 6 Software, 27 Modules

Laboratoire de CYBERJUSTICE Laboratory

Created in 2010 by professor Karim Benyekhlef, of the Université de Montréal, and professor Fabien Gélinas, of McGill University, the Laboratory studies and develops ICTs designed to improve dispute resolution processes, be they judicial or extrajudicial. It is also a center of reflection and creativity where judicial processes are modeled and re-imagined.

The Laboratory's research team seeks to better understand the socio-legal obstacles to the technological connectivity of judicial actors and to find concrete solutions to facilitate the development of a new software generation adapted to their needs. Its goal is to optimize traditional legal processes in order to improve efficiency, reduce costs and delays and simplify the mechanisms involved.

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Partners

University Partners

The benefits we derive from our university partners stem from an unprecedented access to cutting-edge data in the fields of justice and artificial intelligence, as well as access to multiple actors specializing in these domains.

Institutional Partners

Our institutional partners will have a better understanding of the issues involved in integrating AI into the justice system. ACT will give them the tools they need to make informed technological choices that comply with the laws as well as the expectations of the various stakeholders involved, while simultaneously respecting the principles of justice.

Industry Partners

For companies developing technological solutions for the legal community, the project provides unparalleled access to the actors, expertise and data needed to develop effective tools adapted to the specific context of the justice community.

Professional Partners

The professional world sees the ACT project as an unprecedented opportunity to modernize and update the legal services "industry", for example, by assisting in the development of software applications that can optimize and diversify the work of lawyers and notaries.

Social Justice and Community Partners

Community partners, whose goal is to improve the prevention and resolution of conflicts in our societies, will be able to count on new tools and advanced knowledge to help litigants.

ACT AUTONOMY THROUGH CYBERJUSTICE TECHNOLOGIES

A 21st century justice

The Autonomy Through Cyberjustice Technologies (ACT) project is a unique partnership in the fields of artificial intelligence (AI) and cyberjustice. The ACT project is led by Professor Karim Benyekhlef, Director of the Cyberjustice Laboratory, and funded by the 2017 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) competition.
The ACT partnership aims to improve conflict prevention and resolution by using AI to benefit legal actors.

52 researchers, 45 partners,
9 fields of study and students

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada
Canada

www.ajcact.org

Partnership ACT | 2018-2024

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Working Group 1 — Conflict Prevention

The WG1 team focuses on the study of technical means that might ensure conflict prevention. Within the framework of this project, the definition of prevention encompasses any technical means allowing the actors to prevent the occurrence of a conflict.

Pr Tom van Engers, Universiteit van Amsterdam

Subproject 1
Pre-conflict decision tools for litigants and defendants
Me Valentin Callipel

Subproject 2
Pre-conflict decision tools for legal practitioners
Pr Kevin Ashley

Subproject 3
Decision support tools for tax, administrative authors and the police
Pr Tom van Engers

Subproject 4
Smart contracts and regulation technologies
Pr David Restrepo Amariles

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Working Group 2 — Conflict Resolution

WG2 studies the technical means that relate to the resolution of conflicts, be they judicial (like the Court of Quebec), administrative (such as the Administrative Tribunal of Quebec) or extra-judicial (mediation, arbitration, etc.).

Pr Fabien Gélinas, McGill University

Subproject 5
Pilot project with the *Office de la protection du consommateur du Québec* (OPC)
Pr Jean-François Roberge

Subproject 6
Pilot project with the *Condominium Authority Tribunal* (CAT)
Pr Nicolas Vermeys

Subproject 7
Distributive justice processes using immersive video technologies
Pr David Tait

Subproject 8
Tools for self-represented litigants
Pr Fabien Gélinas

Subproject 9
Decision tools for legal practitioners and adjudicators, judges and arbitrators
Pr Fredric Lederer

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Working Group 3 — Governance and Policies

WG3's methodological works focus on intersecting concerns that are common to the first two lines of research. Its goal is to develop a governance framework to improve the development and use of artificial intelligence tools in a fair, ethical, safe and equitable way.

Pr Jacquie Burkell and Pr Jane Bailey , University of Western Ontario and University of Ottawa

Subproject 10
Inventory of policies and best practices of autonomization AI methods
Pr Amy F. Salyzyn

Subproject 11
Empowering marginalized peoples
Pr Karine Gentelet

Subproject 12
Evaluation and key performance indicators
Me Harold Épineuse

Subproject 13
Ethical and socio-political issues of AI and autonomization
Pr Jacquie Burkell

Subproject 14
Issues associated with harvesting judicial data: privacy, intellectual property and open data
Pr Pierre-Luc Déziel

Subproject 15
Security issues stemming from AI tools
Pr Benoît Dupont

Subproject 16
Roadmap for digital transformation
Pr Florian Martin-Bariteau

Methodology

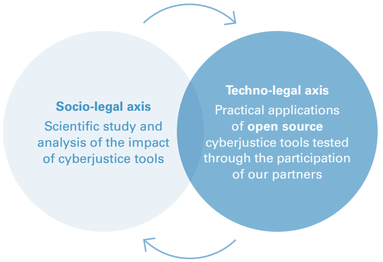
In order to achieve its objectives, the ACT project combines two methodological axes based on what's known as a cross-fertilization model:

The socio-legal axis is based on:

- An inductive methodology founded on case studies;
- The identification and critical analysis of tools to increase the autonomy of judicial actors;
- The multidisciplinary study of the impacts linked to the computerization of justice.

The techno-legal axis, is based on:

- A research applied methodology;
- The simulation, use or development of software prototypes using AI for the benefit of legal actors;
- The use of data, algorithms and software owned by ACT partners.



Research and Deliverables

With its pragmatic approach, the ACT project will lead to the development of the following deliverables:

- Inventories of AI application cases for justice;
- Case studies;
- Best practices guides;
- A legal governance framework for AI.

This major project will promote the cultivation of young people in the field of research by contributing to the annual training of about 25 law and computer science students.

In terms of spin-offs, the projects will allow for the experimentation and implementation of innovative technologies for justice and new opportunities for the private sector, both in Canada and internationally.

2018 — **2024**

Step 1
Inventory of AI application cases for justice

Step 2
Evaluation of their impact with regard to the empowerment of judicial actors

Step 3
Development of best practices to safeguard the interests of the parties

Step 4
Development of a governance framework to ensure the fair use of AI for justice