

FICHE NAVETTE: DOCTORANTS IDEX

SECTOR : Higher Education Institution

LOCATION: France, Grenoble

RESEARCHER PROFILE:

□ *First stage researcher,*

INSTITUTION: Univ. Grenoble Alpes, University of Innovation

One of the major research-intensive French universities, Univ. Grenoble Alpes**1 enjoys an international reputation in many scientific fields, as confirmed by international rankings. It benefits from the implementation of major European instruments (ESRF, ILL, EMBL, IRAM, EMFL*2). The vibrant ecosystem, grounded on a close interaction between research, education and companies, has earned Grenoble to be ranked as the 5th most innovative city in the world. Surrounded by mountains, the campus benefits from a natural environment and a high quality of life and work environment. With 7000 foreign students and the annual visit of more than 8000 researchers from all over the world, Univ. Grenoble Alpes is an internationally engaged university.

A personalized Welcome Center for international students, PhDs and researchers facilitates your arrival and installation.

In 2016, Univ. Grenoble Alpes was labeled «Initiative of Excellence ». This label aims at the emergence of around ten French world class research universities. By joining Univ. Grenoble Alpes, you have the opportunity to conduct world-class research, and to contribute to the social and economic challenges of the 21st century ("sustainable planet and society", "health, well-being and technology", "understanding and supporting innovation: culture, technology, organizations" "Digital technology").

* ESRF (European Synchrotron Radiation Facility), ILL (Institut Laue-Langevin), IRAM (International Institute for Radio Astronomy), EMBL (European Molecular Biology Laboratory), EMFL (European Magnetic Field Laboratory)

Key figures:

- + 50,000 students including 7,000 international students
- 3,700 PhD students, 45% international
- 5,500 faculty members
- 180 different nationalities
- 1st city in France where it feels good to study and 5th city where it feels good to work
- ISSO: International Students & Scholars Office affiliated to EURAXESS

¹ Univ. Grenoble Alpes

MANDATORY REFERENCES:

CDP TITLE: PSS - Pôle Sciences Sociales.

SUBJECT TITLE: **DATA PANOPTISME**

Algorithmic entrapment: algorithmic decision making & fundamental rights

RESEARCH FIELD (cf keywords on Euraxess Jobs): Algorithms – Fundamental rights – Decision making – Datacracy – Rule of Law

SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENT (LABORATORY'S NAME): Centre of Studies on International Security and European Cooperations (CESICE EA 2420 : Centre d'Études sur la Sécurité Internationale et les Coopérations Européennes)

DOCTORAL SCHOOL: SJ Doctoral School of Law

SUPERVISOR'S NAME: Professor Serge SLAMA

SUBJECT DESCRIPTION:

On 15th December 2017, the CNIL (French National Agency regulating Data Protection) published a summary report after a public debate it had organised around the ethical issues raised by algorithms and artificial intelligence, by asking the following question: « How do humans keep control? ». Admission post bac (a website designed for student registrations at University), « intelligent » cars, traffic control, income tax calculations, the identification of number plates in order to fine offenders, internet guiding systems etc... : the impact of algorithms on our everyday lives is increasing and they are moreover influencing our choices in the public sector as well as in the private sector. Yet, this increasing influence of algorithms on the lives of citizens through decision making is apprehended by standards in a completely unsatisfactory way. Article L. 311-3-1 of the Code of relations between the public and the civil service, created by law number 2016-1321 of the 7th October 2016 for a digital State, may indeed be cited. This article compels administrative services to mention the existence of algorithms when these are used to make administrative decisions. The right to receive information regarding these algorithms is thus created. Article 22 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which came into effect in May 2018, bans the principle under which an individual decision may be taken “exclusively” based on “automatic processing”, apart from certain exceptions such as when consent has been given by the interested party.

The doctoral research will draw an objective assessment of the situation in the first instance. How do algorithms impact decision making for both public and private actors? What are the consequences on our lives and behavior? Are individuals increasingly entrapped in their decision making, by algorithms?

In its report, the CNIL proposes « 6 operational recommendations» targeted towards public sector services as well as various parts of civil society (companies, the general public, etc.) aiming for instance at « offering an Ethics training course to all the players in the « algorithmic chain » or « rendering algorithmic systems comprehensible by reinforcing existing rights and by liaising with users ».

However, will these recommendations suffice to guarantee a true respect of fundamental rights? Which « ethical » rules could be enforced to ensure that these rights are respected? Which evolutions or changes of these fundamental rights are necessary to guarantee that our rights are respected? How can we avoid algorithms from contributing to maintaining discrimination and stereotypes? How can we regulate the use of algorithms in order to avoid all aspects of our private lives from being invaded (data-panoptism) and ensuring that our personal data is protected as well as our right to informational self-determination?

Furthermore, regulating the use of algorithms in the decision-making process is mandatory from a democratic point of view, in order to avoid machines from making decisions purely through a rational and instrumentalised process, thus leading to a “Datacracy” at best, or a « Datacraship» at worst.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applicants:

- must hold a Master's degree (or be about to earn one) or have a university degree equivalent to a European Master's (5-year duration),

university degree equivalent to a European Master's (5-year duration), Master 2

The candidate will need to have knowledge and skills in the field of human rights protection in the digital world, and if possible, technical knowledge of the use of algorithms and data



Applicants will have to send an application letter in English and attach:

- Their last diploma
- Their CV
- Covering letter

A short presentation of their scientific project (2 to 3 pages max)

- Letters of recommendation are welcome.