

Winter School on Experimental and Engaged Approaches to Legal Research

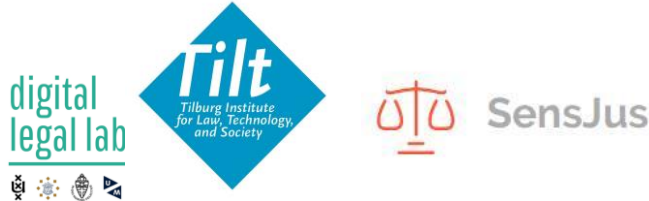


Aim

The aim of this intensive course is to explore how legal researchers* can experiment with methods to (I) perform their research more effectively with different audiences, for example exploring art-based techniques; (II) communicate and disseminate their results more powerfully using engaged methods; (III) build synergies with civil society (e.g. activists), artists and practitioners (e.g. lawyers, judges); (4) reflect on their positionality as legal researchers and their role as storytellers, mediators etc.

Target

Early-career legal researchers* (Lecturers, PhD candidates and postdocs)



**Disclaimer: the school targets legal research but it is not only for researchers with a legal background, being also open to researchers in adjacent fields such as sociology, anthropology and political science that are engaging with some forms of legal research.*

Participants

Maximum 20, free of costs, lunch and coffee breaks offered but participants will have to arrange their traveling and accommodation on their own; subject to registration and places limit, first come first serve basis. Remote attendance or partial attendance is not possible. Lecturers will all be lecturing in person at the school.

Location

Tilburg University, Tilburg

Day 1 and 2: Reitse Toren Building, Professor Cobbenhagenlaan 125

22 November, 12:00-18:00 Room: RTZ 501

23 November, 10:00-17:39 Room: RTZ 103

Day 3: Dante Building, Warandelaan 2

24 November, 9:30-13:00 Room: DZ 004

See below for a detailed agenda.

Acknowledgements

This winter school is supported by the [TILT Access to Justice Technology and Design](#) which is generously funded by the Tilburg University Innovation Fund as well as the inter university research centre [Digital Legal Lab](#).



Convenors

Siddharth Peter de Souza

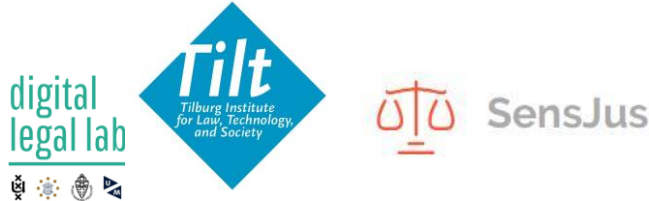
Siddharth Peter de Souza is a post-doctoral researcher at the Global Data Justice Project at Tilburg Institute for Law, Technology and Society. His work explores how data is governed globally in contested, and plural settings, and he is interested in the role that social movements and civil society can play in shaping governance frameworks. He has recently published a monograph titled *Designing Indicators for a Plural Legal World* (Cambridge University Press 2022) which discusses how rule of law indicators need to be reimagined to account for legal pluralism, and contexts and countries in the Global South. Siddharth is also the founder of Justice Adda, a law and design social venture which seeks to build legal literacy and awareness in India and develops projects that aim to demystify how the law is communicated.

Web page: <https://www.tilburguniversity.edu/staff/s-p-desouza>

Anna Berti Suman

Bio: Anna Berti Suman is a researcher & activist on civic environmental monitoring. She enthusiastically leads the ‘Sensing for Justice’ project on the potential of civic evidence to demonstrate environmental harms in court. The project was funded by a Marie Curie Individual Fellowship and by the Dutch Research Council. She received her PhD from the Tilburg Institute for Law, Technology and Society with the ‘Sensing the Risk’ project, investigating how civic monitoring can influence environmental risk governance, especially after disasters. She is also a qualified lawyer under the Bar Association of Rome with work experience on environmental and climate justice cases spanning from South America to Northern Europe. Anna is passionate about science engagement, art-based research methods and slow ethnography.

Web page: <https://sensingforjustice.webnode.it/>



Lecturers (in first name alphabetical order)

Abigail De Rijp

Bio: Abigail de Rijp was born in Paramaribo, Suriname. She graduated from the Anton de Kom University of Suriname for both her LLB and LLM degree and has left her marks in the public sector by working for the Surinamese Court of Justice as a junior legal assistant. She's also a consultant in her family's company and an Attorney at Law in both civil and criminal law. Within Tilburg University, Abigail teaches or assists in a number of courses, such as, for example, Researching Law & Technology, Advanced Topics in Intellectual Property Law, Privacy and Data Protection & Innovation and Regulation.

Web page: <https://www.tilburguniversity.edu/staff/a-z-m-derijp>

Lecture: *Description to follow*

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Alexandra Greene

Bio: Alexandra Greene (she/her) has an interdisciplinary background informed by research-creation, intersectional feminist practices, and a humanities education. Since 2019, she is a PhD candidate in the Department of Sociology at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. Her research is embedded within the NWO-VICI project Engaged Scholarship and Narratives of Change, led by professor dr. Halleh Ghorashi. Within this project, she explores practices of solidarity across difference in the context of the migrant justice movement in California.

Web page: <https://www.alexandragreene.online/>

Lecture: *Being critical and creative: research-creation* - Research-creation describes an approach to research that engages artistic expression, scholarly investigation, curiosity, and experimentation. In practise, research topics are selected and explored through a creation process, for example, a film or video, dance, performance, installation, sound-work, zine, recipe, and/or multimedia arts and texts. In this session, focused on merging the critical and the creative, Alex discusses the ethics in which this practise is embedded and how and why research-creation might be integrated into our research. Reflecting on her experiences



learning, teaching, and transgressing through research-creation, she will invite participants to consider the value of investing in practices and processes - and not only outcomes of research - particularly in the context of collaborative research.

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Carlo Sella

Bio: Carlo Sella (he/them) works as a director, actor, educator and organizer. They founded the research theatre group *Lab of Rooted Imagination*, which explores the topic of political action; they co-founded *ShiftSlow – association for a just and colourful transition*, with whom they organize *AltShift, a Degrowth Festival* in Austria. They are part of the academic collective *Research and Degrowth*, through which they teach Art and Environmental Justice at the Universidad Autonoma de Barcelona in the MA of Political Ecology. They co-directed artistic action for XR and StopWar in Barcelona and co-organized *Germinar-t*, community-based art residencies in an off-grid village in Andalucía.

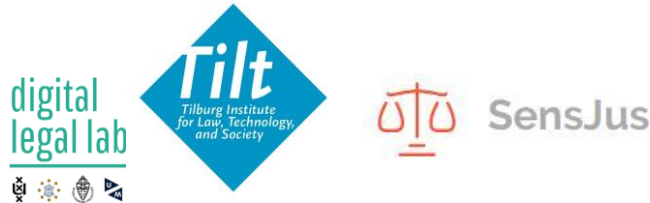
Web page: <https://carlosella.com/>

Lecture: *Legal theatre: putting 'research-creation' in practice* - This session will draw upon the practical experiences of the facilitator in the realm of exploring environmental justice cases through artistic and activist lenses. We'll focus on 'Las Memorias del Rio Aguas,' an artistic project dedicated to uncovering the intricacies of water cultures in the desertic region of Almería. Through an examination of the creative and organizational process, we will delve into important questions, such as: What roles do artists, activists, and lawyers play in addressing Ecological Distribution Conflicts (EDC)? How can transdisciplinary approaches assist us in advancing a just socio-ecological transition?

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Haroon Khan

Haroon Khan is a lecturer at the TILT Institute of Tilburg Law School. Originally from Switzerland, his research areas of interest include AI ethics and justice, 3d printable firearms technology, autonomous weapons systems, techno-regulation, and the liability of online platforms regarding red-pill/incel content; but perhaps more so, Haroon is interested in the



social science of teaching, and is enthusiastic about building classroom environments that can provide equal opportunities for different types of learners that incorporate his own personal interests to be used as teaching devices.

Lecture: *Co-learning through visualization and pop culture in the classroom* - In a world where educators are now more than ever competing for the attention of students, neurodiversity is acknowledged more tangibly, and where a syllabus that doesn't change year in and year out can be a little un-feeling, Haroon plans to build his session around the use of physical props and media (particularly sci-fi and other fiction) and music to create a more multi-sensory learning experience, keep students engaged, and lets teachers themselves share a little bit of who they are with the students that they spend so much time with.

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Linnet Taylor

Bio: Linnet Taylor is Professor of International Data Governance at TILT. Her research focuses on digital data, representation and democracy, with particular attention to transnational governance issues. Her work on group privacy and data justice is used in discussions of technology governance in countries around the world. She also led the Global Data Justice project (2018-23), aiming to develop a social-justice-informed framework for governance of data technologies on the global level. Her work has also been supported by the Luminate foundation and the EU AI Fund. She is a member of the Dutch Young Academy (De Jonge Akademie).

Web page: <https://www.tilburguniversity.edu/staff/l-e-m-taylor>

Lecture: *Participant Observation in Challenging settings* - Researchers working on technology frequently have to deal with organisations that are not designed to be public-facing or accountable, and activities that are securitised, protected by business secrecy, or otherwise inaccessible to researchers. Meanwhile, qualitative research methods are usually not well configured for the challenges of researching elites. This session will look at how to address problems of access, working with elite research subjects, and doing participant observation in spaces where the researcher is not always welcome. It will discuss different strategies to



make opaque institutions and organisations more legible to research, including industry events, expert interviewing, participant observation in organisations, and using media and civil society reports. The session will include a Q&A on participants' own research.

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Mary Jet Amsing

Bio: Mary Jet Amsing is a Dutch educational consultant and illustrator. She has a background in the educational sciences (BSc) and adult education (MSc) and worked on her PhD in the field of HRM/Labour law in the education sector. She concluded that she was more a generalist than a specialist and pursued her passion in using visual methods to understand and clarify (complex) situations, and to improve the dialogue between stakeholders. She is currently working as a full-time freelancer, combining her skills as an illustrator, researcher, and educational designer.

Web page: <https://maryjet.nl>

Lecture: *Using (visual) art for performing research and engaging research participants* - In this session, we will explore the possibilities of using art forms as a primary way of understanding and examining experiences or situations and engaging participants. Mary Jet will focus on the use of visual arts such as drawings but also other art forms like serious games are considered. Secondly, the aim is to inspire you to think about using art forms for performing research and for communicating and disseminating your results. She will discuss practices with the participants that encompass drawings, graphic novels, games, videos, movies, theater, dance, poetry, and installations, among others.

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Michiel Bot

Bio: Among other things, I am an associate professor of law and humanities at Tilburg University, where I teach courses on Law in Society, Imagining Justice, and Legal Fictions in the Liberal Arts program. After studying law, philosophy, and cultural analysis at the



University of Amsterdam, I pursued a PhD in comparative literature at New York University, did a teaching postdoc in politics and humanities at Bard College, and taught literature and society at Al Quds Bard (Palestine). My recent research has been on the right to boycott, freedom of expression and demonstration, the politics of undocumented migrants, migrant caravans, municipal ID cards, and race, law, and the nation-state.

Webpage: <https://www.tilburguniversity.edu/staff/michiel-bot>

Lecture: *Legal mobilization to engage communities*
Description to follow

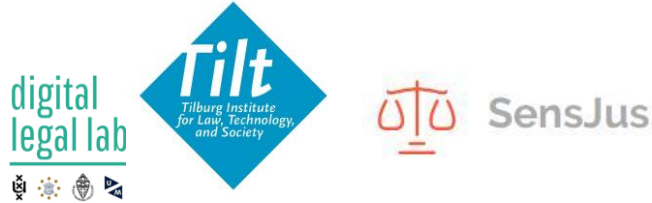
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Naomi Bueno de Mesquita

Bio: Naomi Bueno de Mesquita is a design researcher whose work resides at the convergence of design, anthropology, and philosophy with a specific focus on embodiment and emerging technologies. As Professor of Design and Social Justice at Design Academy Eindhoven, Naomi heads the Social Justice Lab - a research platform dedicated to fundamentally reimagining the role of design in advancing an equitable, just, and nondiscriminatory society. Additionally, Naomi serves as a lecturer at Elisava School of Design and Engineering in Barcelona, where her teaching includes subjects such as Social Design, Care, and The Common Good. Naomi obtained a PhD from KU Leuven/LUCA School of Arts, with research centering on critical cartography.

Web page: <https://designacademy.nl/p/about-dae/community/dr-naomi-bueno-de-mesquita>

Lecture: *Design research for social justice with vulnerable communities* - In this session, the potentials of design research and specifically contextually designed tools are discussed when working with vulnerable communities. A case study will be presented where research was performed on and with undocumented migrants in the city of Amsterdam. The affordances of the tools that were designed for this research will be discussed, including ethical considerations, their role in rebalancing power dynamics, bridging various knowledge worlds, and facilitating highly detailed data on the daily lives of these communities. Finally, the session will address



the constraints of this research and suggest areas where it can enhance other fields or disciplines.

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Nairita Roy Chaudhuri

Nairita Roy Chaudhuri is a doctoral researcher within the *European Joint Doctorate in Law and Development program*, at Tilburg Law School, Tilburg University and Oslo University. Her transdisciplinary project explores the role of law in enabling subaltern communities to sustainably adapt to water scarcity and droughts under climate change, by focusing on gender relations. She relies upon grounded theory, and qualitative methods to explore this question in rural parts of eastern India in the states of West Bengal and Odisha. She directed a short documentary film based on her participatory research titled, *Water, Life and the Future of Climate Crisis*.

Webpage: <https://www.tilburguniversity.edu/staff/n-roychaudhuri>

Lecture: *Description to follow*



Time	Topic	Speaker
<u>Wednesday 22nd</u>		
12.00 to 13.00	Introduction to the Winter school (research cycle; phases of research; key concepts)	Anna Berti Suman & Siddharth Peter de Souza
13.00 to 14.00	Using (visual) art for performing research and engaging research participants	Mariette Amsing & Anna Berti Suman
14.00 to 15.00	Games to stimulate legal thinking and re-imagining legal concepts	Siddharth Peter de Souza
15.00 to 15.30	Coffee/ Tea	
15.30 to 16.30	Legal mobilization to engage communities	Michiel Bot
16.30 to 17.30	Slow ethnography: sensorial walks as a method of research (<i>outdoor, TiU forest</i>)	Anna Berti Suman
17.30 to 18.00	Drinks	
<u>Thursday 23rd</u>		
10.00 to 11.00	Making consent meaningful through visuals; use of graphic novels in the research process	Anna Berti Suman & Siddharth Peter de Souza
11.00 to 12.00	Co-learning through visualization and pop culture in the classroom	Haroon Khan
12.00 to 13.00	Lunch	

13.00 to 14.00	Design research for social justice with vulnerable communities	Naomi Bueno de Mesquita
14.00 to 15.00	Research impact and storytelling in times of crisis	Nairita Roy Chaudhri
15.00 to 15.30	Coffee/Tea	
15.30 to 16.30	Being critical and creative: research-creation	Alexandra Greene
16.30 to 17.30	Legal theatre: putting 'research-creation' in practice	Carlo Sella & Anna Berti Suman
Friday 24th		
10.00 to 11.00	Creating learning labs for experiential educational and research.	Siddharth Peter de Souza & Abigail De Rijp
11.00 to 12.00	Participant observation in challenging settings	Linnet Taylor
12.00 to 12.45	Wrapping up lessons from the school, with the help of visual art	Anna Berti Suman, Siddharth Peter de Souza & Mariette Amsing
12.45 to 13.00	Conclusions & Feedback	All