



Guarini Institute for Global Legal Studies

Guarini Global Law & Tech

Call for Applications: Research Fellows/Project Leads

The Global Law & Tech initiative of the Guarini Institute for Global Legal Studies at New York University School of Law seeks two full-time research fellows/project leads, to begin immediately or as soon as available.

Depending on experience and interests, the fellows will work on one or both of the following projects:

- **Critical Digital Infrastructure: Legal Technologies & Institutional Design**
- **Data Governance & International Organizations**

A suitable applicant may have the opportunity to lead a project. We are also open to secondments from law firms, tech companies, or international organizations.

Projects

Critical Digital Infrastructure: Legal Technologies & Institutional Design

The legal regime governing the development and use of open source software contributes significantly to the under-supply of critical digital infrastructure maintenance. This project seeks to develop creative readjustments of 'legal technologies' and adapted or novel institutional designs in close coordination with interested participants in the open source software ecosystem.

The aim of the project is to problems of open source software creation, release, and maintenance and to develop legal devices and institutions to better support open source elements of digital infrastructure. The project participants will foster close interaction with different digital infrastructure ecosystems and their diverse range of stakeholders in order to understand interests and incentives as well as values and core commitments in open source communities. The project will also seek to raise issues of law and governance and identify distinctive opportunities and challenges for transnational open source software development communities posed by the inherently global nature of digital infrastructure and the corresponding need for non-jurisdiction bound legal solutions.

Data Governance & International Organizations

Data collection, processing and analysis is becoming increasingly important for international organizations. The UN has recognized the ‘data revolution’ as an enabler of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Innovation hubs have been set up at various UN agencies with the aim of fostering technology-driven innovation, including via data mining and real-time data collection. Accompanying the immense importance of data for international organizations working in the field of development and humanitarian assistance are legitimate concerns regarding risks associated with collection, storage, processing and sharing of data, particularly in light of a fragmented regulatory landscape.

The aim of the project is to identify structures and incentives for governance of data in international organizations, whilst highlighting challenges and opportunities presented by data-driven development and humanitarian interventions. In the first track, the project will examine data practices of international organizations with the aim of proposing data governance architectures and compliance processes suitable for international organizations engaged in development and humanitarian work. The project will also explore the creation of software solutions to automate compliance functions associated with data governance. In the second track, the projects will study the implications of data-driven and automated interventions on the norm-creation and knowledge-generation power of international organizations.

Fellowship Description

The fellowship is open to law school graduates, PhD students in the process of completing their dissertations in the relevant fields, post-doctoral students with degrees in relevant disciplines, and practitioners with relevant expertise. Applicants whose combined knowledge, expertise, and experience demonstrate proficiency in law as well as in computer science, engineering, or data science are particularly encouraged to apply. We are also open to secondments from law firms, tech companies, or international organizations.

Required Qualifications

- Strong interest in interdisciplinary work, particularly in the intersection of transnational law/international law, global practice and technology
- Demonstrated research and writing skills, as well as organizational and planning skills
- Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to work across disciplines and with different constituencies
- Legal, policy, or technical expertise in a field relevant to the projects

For applicants interested in the **Critical Digital Infrastructure: Legal Technologies & Institutional Design** project, *preferred qualifications* (having one or several of these qualifications is helpful, but not required) include:

- Substantive knowledge of intellectual property laws (particularly licensing regimes) and law of contracts
- Demonstrated understanding of open source platforms and the ability to build connections with the open source community
- Demonstrated knowledge of software architecture, coding, and IT systems
- Understanding of the challenges created by jurisdiction-bound legal frameworks in the context of global digital infrastructure

For applicants interested in the **Data Governance & International Organizations** project, *preferred qualifications* (having one or several of these qualifications is helpful, but not required) include:

- Substantive knowledge and experience in at least one relevant area, such as international law, law of international organizations, law and development, and/or law and global governance
- Demonstrated knowledge and/or experience with data protection laws, privacy, data governance, and compliance mechanisms
- Knowledge of data science (e.g. data categorization, data mining techniques, data analytics)
- Knowledge or experience with legal tech (especially software to operationalize laws and policies)

Workload, Salary, Benefits

We are looking for fellows who will work on a full-time basis but are open to exploring part-time options, depending on availability and project needs. The salary is competitive with other academic fellowship positions. Full-time fellow will also receive a generous array of benefits, which include medical, dental and vision. Further information regarding benefits can be found [here](#). We offer work space in Wilf Hall, 139 MacDougal Street in New York City and a dynamic, team-oriented research environment.

NYU is an Equal Opportunity Employer and is committed to a policy of equal treatment and opportunity in every aspect of its recruitment and hiring process without regard to age, alienage, caregiver status, childbirth, citizenship status, color, creed, disability, domestic violence victim status, ethnicity, familial status, gender and/or gender identity or expression, marital status, military status, national origin, parental status, partnership

status, predisposing genetic characteristics, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, unemployment status, veteran status, or any other legally protected basis. Women, racial and ethnic minorities, persons of minority sexual orientation or gender identity, individuals with disabilities, and veterans are encouraged to apply for vacant positions at all levels.

Application Materials

- Cover letter
- Curriculum Vitae
- Writing sample or project portfolio, as relevant
- 3 References (contact information only). Letters of reference and copies of scholarly transcripts may be requested of top candidates.

Please send your application materials by email to our administrator Rachel Jones at rachel.jones@nyu.edu.

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