

Conference on current research questions on accountable algorithmic decision making systems (QAccADM) 2023

March 13, 2023, Berlin

Call for abstracts

About the conference

At this conference, researchers from the field of political science and public administration, computer science, law and ethics as well as social psychology will discuss research on algorithmic decision making. It is the final conference of an interdisciplinary research project funded by the VolkswagenStiftung on the use of ADM systems in the context of Criminal Justice (<https://fatal4justice.cs.uni-kl.de>). The conference aims at discussing current research and open questions with a special focus on the use of ADM systems by European governments.

For more information on the conference, please visit: <http://qaccadm.cs.uni-kl.de/>

Research in the political science regarding governmental use of ADM system

For researchers from political science and public administration working on digital policies and the regulation of ADM systems, a special track (Track 1) will enable us to discuss current dynamics in ADM use by the state. It is chaired by Prof. Georg Wenzelburger (Saarland University). We **invite abstracts for short presentations** to be held at the conference to be submitted via easychair.org by **January 5, 2023**. More information about guidelines and the review process, please see the conference webpage and the more detailed information below.

Description of the political science/public administration track

In this slot, we want to discuss research from political science and public administration on how state agencies use ADM systems and which differences can be observed between countries, policy areas or levels of government. Hence, we invite abstracts for papers that either discuss empirical cases of ADM use by the state or put forward a theoretical argument on this question drawing on concepts from political science and public administration. We are particularly interested in contributions that address questions like: How do algorithms interfere with politics when politicians decide about the use of an ADM? How do they affect policy-making i.e. political decision-making? And how do they change polity, that is the institutional setup, routines, or bases of legitimacy? Each contribution should pose at least one open research question for future research.

Submission Format and Guidelines

We plan to have a Lightning-Talk format. In this format, participants give short presentations on their research - of no more than 8 minutes each. Please prepare such a short presentation and make your slides understandable for a wide audience (e.g., computer scientists, legal scientists, political scientists, economists). Please integrate a (final) slide where you pose at least one open research question in connection with your presentation. We will close the session with a discussion about these open questions.

Please submit an abstract of around **500 words by January 5th, 2023**. The abstract should not only include a short summary of the work you want to present but also one or several questions for future research based on your work.

Planned outcome of the session

The outcome of the session is to get an understanding of what cutting-edge research in political science has to say about the question of how and to what extent the advent of ADM systems changes the foundation of politics and policy-making. While the “Lightning Talks” will not enable us to discuss the individual contributions very deeply, they will not only stimulate interdisciplinary academic exchange on the open research questions posed during the talks but also provoke discussions on how to address these. As the conference will also give participants the opportunity to network and to build up collaborations as well as to talk to possible funding agencies (from Germany), outcomes of the sessions may reach beyond academic exchange and also involve steps toward a concrete research agenda.

Review Process

All abstracts will be evaluated in terms of their clarity, content and their fit to the call. We are especially interested in work that connects a political science or public administration perspective with an interdisciplinary angle. Moreover, the question(s) for future research included in the abstract will be of particular importance in the selection process. We will select four proposals which will be presented in the 55 minutes slot together with a short 10 minutes presentation from the organizers. Remaining proposals that we found particularly stimulating but could not be invited due to time constraints will be included in a short document on the panel together with the presented abstracts and contact information of all authors. This will enable networking even for those who could not be invited to Berlin. The document will also be circulated to interested funding agencies and political institutions.



Fatal4Justice?