

Call for Papers for a Special Issue of the Journal of Information Technology on:

## “Regulation in the Age of Digitalization”

Special Issue Editors:

**Daniel Gozman**, University of Sydney – Australia  
(daniel.gozman@sydney.edu.au, corresponding)

**Tom Butler**, University College Cork – Ireland

**Kalle Lyytinen**, Case Western Reserve University – USA

The rise of information technology (IT) in organizations has been an inherent part of an agenda to increase and shape forms of social control. Despite the inherent link between uses of IT and social control, the topic of regulation has not received significant attention in the information system field – neither theoretically nor empirically. This special seeks to address this gap. The issue explores the growing and significant interplay between IT and regulation in the age of digitalization, where new challenges with social control with IT are emerging.

In this special issue, we are interested in two broad domains of research related to regulation and IT: regulation *through* IT and regulation *of* IT.

The first domain – **regulation through IT** – concerns new forms and arenas of regulation enacted through innovative IT solutions (often called “RegTech”). These technologies which are increasingly implicated in regulatory practices include new forms of real-time big data analytics, machine learning and other artificial intelligence (AI) techniques, use of blockchains and distributed ledgers, Internet of Things solutions or natural language processing techniques. These technologies change the ways organizations and industrial sectors respond to and comply with a growing number of regulatory obligations and needs (Butler and O’Brien, 2019; Gozman et al 2018). These technologies are also driving changes in the ways in which regulators seek to supervise and monitor firms and the ways in which firms comply with laws and regulations.

Greater market and organisational transparency and enhanced supervision are now advocated as critical responses to organizational misconduct and associated risks (Currie, Gozman and Seddon 2018; Roberts, 2009). This has resulted in an increasing call for bureaucratization and (over-)regulation (Graeber, 2013). Call for greater monitoring, supervision and sanctioning have been driven by concerns regarding the environment, health and safety risks, corporate fiscal and fiduciary scandals (e.g., Enron), financial failures leading to financial crisis in 2007-2008, or growing violations of data privacy (e.g., General Data Protection Regulation) increased the “volume, velocity and variety” of laws and regulations that organizations must comply with and the range of novel IT based solutions they need to comply to such demands (Gozman and Currie, 2014; Vaujany, Fomin, Haefliger, and Lyytinen, 2018; Butler & O’Brien, 2019). Regulators have also shown a growing appetite to measure performance, to quantify financial, regulatory and operational risk and to

improve compliance reporting through new technologies that assign accountability, enforce security and behavioural control, automate monitor and enhance record keeping (Williams 2012; Baskerville et al. 2018).

The second domain – **regulation of IT** – is the wide range deployment and associated regulatory effects of new IT (esp. concerns of security, privacy and/or safety). There is a notable gap in the field's knowledge regarding new demands and ways of regulating IT (e.g., social media) given its scale, complexity and pervasive use. Concerns regarding the pervasive effects of platform businesses (e.g., Facebook, Google, Amazon etc.) on privacy, competition and information veracity have invited calls to control and scrutinize technology vendors (e.g., Zuboff 2015, 2019). Similar issues are likely to emerge in autonomous cars, user-based insurance, health policies and so on. There are consequently increased demands to regulate various IT solutions and to increase regulatory powers of governments related to IT uses, including through introducing entirely new regulatory bodies. If platform providers and vendors, or organizations offering extensive algorithmic solutions as parts of their related services (e.g., Uber), are subjected to new regulatory structures, then important questions arise regarding what degrees of transparency and reporting are appropriate and how related forms of supervision and sanctioning would function that need to regulate actual systems and their functioning and those who are implicated in their design.

We invite empirical and theoretical research that contribute to our understanding and application how regulation is enacted through IT or how uses of IT can be regulated. We encourage submissions that use diverse epistemological and methodological approaches to focus on emerging and new regulatory solutions and practices. Submissions may engage in cross-disciplinary inquiries and should offer novel knowledge and fresh methodological, theoretical and empirical insights how regulation and IT evolve and are related. The papers will be evaluated for their interestingness, novelty and credibility of the contribution. If in doubt, interested authors should consult the special issue guest editors whether their papers fall within the scope of the special issue. To this end, authors are encouraged to submit an extended abstract to the editors for initial feedback.

Topics of the special include but are not limited to:

**Domain 1: Regulatory technologies for supervising and complying (“regulation through IT”)**

- Theoretical analyses and frames for understanding regulatory technologies and how they shape social control and its various forms.
- New roles and demands for IT based audits and related challenges.
- The changing role of IT for regulatory intelligence and change management.
- Managerial implications of regulatory technologies in vertical industries such as financial services, pharmaceuticals, petrochemicals, healthcare, aviation etc.
- The nature, scope and effects of digitisation of governance, risk and compliance practices and related mechanisms.
- Innovation and entrepreneurship in regulatory technologies (e.g., sandboxes, incubators, accelerators).

- C-suite roles and responses with regard to regulatory technologies and the changing nature and role of regulatory function in organizations.
- Technologies for identifying, monitoring and mitigating operational and financial risks.
- Managing organizational failures using RegTech.
- Using digital technologies to address anti-money laundering (AML), terrorist financing and fraud.
- The use of regulatory technology in developing countries.

## **Domain 2: Regulating new technologies and platforms (“regulation of IT”)**

- Regulation of social media technologies and platforms.
- Regulation of IT solutions and related solutions during design, implementation and use.
- Regulation of AI.
- How to bridge the gap between ethics and policy (e.g., for AI)? Where is the overlap and divergence?
- Strategic implications of regulating technologies for nations, industries and firms.
- Solutions for data privacy, protection, governance and “fake news”.
- Cybersecurity obligations and mitigating related risks at the organizational level including network security and defence systems implementation and management.

## **Submission Timetable**

Manuscripts will go through no more than two rounds of review. Submitted papers may be invited to be presented at workshop connected to this special issue.

- First round submission: 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021
- Round 1 decision to authors: 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021
- Second round submission: 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021
- Second round decision to authors: 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021
- Third and Final Round submissions: 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021
- Final decision to authors: December 2021

## **Editorial Review Board**

Barney Tan	University of Sydney – Australia
Chris Parker	American University – USA
David Tilson	University of Rochester – USA
Eric Lim	University New South Wales – Australia
Francois de Vaujany	Université Paris-Dauphine – France

Frantz Rowe	Université de Nantes– France
Heiko Gewalt	Neu-Ulm University of Applied Science –Germany
Jonas Hedman	Copenhagen Business School – Denmark
M. Lynne Markus	Bentley University – USA
Markos Zachariadis	University of Warwick – UK
Michael zur Muehlen	Stevens Institute of Technology – USA
Michel Avital	Copenhagen Business School – Denmark
Mikhail Oet	Northeastern University – USA
Nicholas Berente	University of Notre Dame – USA
Pierangelo Rosati	Dublin City University – Ireland
Roman Beck	IT University of Copenhagen – Denmark
Shazia Sadiq	University of Queensland – Australia
Silvia Masiero	Loughborough University – UK
Stefan Haefliger	City University – UK
Theo Lynn	Dublin City University – Ireland
Uri Gal	University of Sydney – Australia
Vladislav Fomin	University of Vilnius – Latvia

## References

- Baskerville, R., Rowe, F., & Wolff, F. C. (2018). Integration of Information Systems and Cybersecurity Countermeasures: An Exposure to Risk Perspective. *The Database for Advances in Information Systems*, 49(1), 33-52.
- Butler, T. (2017). Towards a Standards-based Technology Architecture for RegTech. *Journal of Financial Transformation*, 45(1), 49-59.
- Butler, T., & O'Brien, L. (2019). Understanding RegTech for Digital Regulatory Compliance. In: *Disrupting Finance*, pp. 85-102, Palgrave.
- Currie, W. L., Gozman, D. P., & Seddon, J. J. (2018). Dialectic Tensions in the Financial Markets: A Longitudinal Study of Pre- and Post-Crisis Regulatory Technology. *Journal of Information Technology*, 33(4), 304-325.
- De Vaujany, F. X., Fomin, V. V., Haefliger, S., & Lyytinen, K. (2018). Rules, Practices, and IT: A Trifecta of Organizational Regulation. *Information Systems Research*, 29(3), 755-773.
- Gozman, D., & Currie, W. (2014). The Role of Investment Management Systems in Regulatory Compliance: A Post-Financial Crisis Study of Displacement Mechanisms. *Journal of Information Technology*, 29(1), 44-58.
- Gozman, D., Liebenau, J., & Mangan, J. (2018). The Innovation Mechanisms of Fintech Start-Ups: Insights from Swift's Innotribe Competition. *Journal of Management Information Systems*, 35(1), 145-179.
- Graeber, D. (2015). *The Utopia of Rules: On Technology, Stupidity, and the Secret Joys of Bureaucracy*. Melville House.
- Roberts, J. (2009). No One Is Perfect: The Limits of Transparency and an Ethic for 'Intelligent' Accountability, *Accounting, Organizations and Society* 34(8): 957–970.
- Williams, J. W. (2013) Regulatory Technologies, Risky Subjects, and Financial Boundaries: Governing "Fraud" in the Financial Markets, *Accounting, Organizations and Society* 38(6), 544-558.

- Zuboff, S. (2015). Big Other: Surveillance Capitalism and the Prospects of an Information Civilization. *Journal of Information Technology*, 30(1), 75-89.
- Zuboff, S. (2019). The Age of Surveillance Capitalism. Profile.