

Law and art are in many ways closely related. Law protects intellectual property and freedom of expression (Law of art). Theatre, literature and cartoons for instance criticise the law in light of fundamental values and invite debate about what these values imply. Portraits, court architecture and music, such as opera libretti, underscore the legal call for authority. (Law in Art)

Law and art are also related due to their rhetorical character. Artistic and legal utterances persuade their public and call for belief. Lawyers make use of archetypal narratives and images, fictions and symbols with sometimes mythical and religious roots (Law as Art).

However, digitalisation (big data, data-mining, social media) can endanger legal values (privacy) and polarise democratic debate, thereby helped by artistic means such as storytelling and archetypal images. At the other hand, digitalisation offers to artists an open platform for reinforcing the critical power of art

The Erasmus School of Law invites authors from a wide array of disciplines (law, art, sociology, cultural criticism, political science, philosophy) to share their reflections about the relationship between art and law in the current information society.

Possible approaches

Law in Art: To what extent digitalisation promotes or endangers the artistic reflection of the Rule of Law? What are the theoretical and philosophical implications of digitalisation for the theory of the Rule of Law and democracy? What consequences does digitalisation have for the aesthetics of art and its relation to the Rule of law and democracy?

Law as art: To what extent digitalisation promotes or endangers the legal art of judgment and the dissemination of core legal values? To what extent might digitalisation and the use of artistic techniques promote the dissemination of prejudices? What might be the consequences for the theory of Rule of law and democracy?

Further guidelines

- Contributions should preferably refer to a specific work of art (f.i. pictorial, literary, film, video, performance).
- Intellectual property issues are not the main theme. The main aim of this project is to invite reflection about the theoretical and philosophical implications of digitalisation for the relationship between Law and Art.
- Send in a synopsis before February 1, 2019.
- The editors will choose relevant abstracts for further development and may offer suggestions for adjustment.
- The final delivery date is July, 1st, 2019.
 Autumn 2019 the publication will be launched in a festive ceremony.

For any questions, please do not hesitate to contact one of the editors.