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Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Artificial Intelligence and the Law

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Preface

About the Book

This book is the outcome of a collaborative effort.

Five years ago, research group “Law and Artificial Intelligence”—hosted by the Católica Research Centre for the Future of Law (Universidade Católica Portuguesa—UCP, Lisbon, Portugal) and led by Henrique Sousa Antunes (UCP) and Arlindo Oliveira (Instituto Superior Técnico—IST)—started an ongoing scientific dialogue among scholars with diverse backgrounds and interests: law, computer science, neurosciences, and ethics. Since then, AI has further increased its role as the main driver of the contemporary digital transformation. As it continues to grow into an omnipresent set of general-purpose technologies, new questions need addressing. Among them, there are many outstanding technical, societal, ethical, legal, and regulatory questions, but rather than trying to focus on just one set of queries, this book is an attempt at understanding a broad number of problems from a distinctive multidisciplinary lens.

Some of the contributors to this book are members of the “Law and Artificial Intelligence” research group. Others are prominent researchers who have been invited to share their unique views on these topics. Others still have been selected to contribute to this project through a peer-review process, following a dedicated Call for Articles.

Section I addresses “Scientific, technological and societal achievements in Artificial Intelligence,” but rather than gathering articles from a strictly engineering point of view, it approaches technical questions that also touch upon an array of societal, legal, and ethical issues.

In Section II, “Ethical and legal challenges in Artificial Intelligence,” the authors highlight the multiple risks emerging from the deployment of AI and attempt to search for answers at the intersection of law and ethics.

Finally, Section III, “The law, governance and regulation of Artificial Intelligence,” discusses solutions for regulating AI, with a particular focus on recent European Union initiatives in this field.

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The donors that made this enterprise possible include some of the most prestigious law firms operating in Portugal, as well as a number of current and former professors and alumni of the Lisbon School of Law of Universidade Católica Portuguesa:

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