

Journal of **LAW** *and* **RELIGION**

Law, Religion, and Artificial Intelligence: Risks and Opportunities of an Uncertain Future

Call for Papers

The rapid development of artificial intelligence (AI) is having a profound impact on societies around the globe, raising a host of ethical, legal, and religious questions. The *Journal of Law and Religion (JLR)* invites scholarly contributions to a print symposium that will examine the multifaceted implications of AI from the vantage point of law and religion

Our focus

Our primary focus is to investigate how AI's pervasive presence could impact law and religion—both essential sources of values and meaning. We seek to understand how AI's ascendancy might influence these foundational elements of our society in their value-setting and meaning-making capacities and to explore the potential contributions that law and religion can make to navigating the challenges brought about by an AI-dominant world.

Ethical and legal challenges

Ethical and legal challenges arising from AI adoption will be a key area of interest. We seek scholarly exploration of whether and how law and religion can serve as dynamic and constructive sources for adaptation and mitigation of AI risks. Our goal is to explore how the interaction of law and religion can offer insights and solutions to tackle these challenges, paving the way for responsible and ethically sound AI technologies, as well as sufficient and effective regulation of these technologies.

The role of religion

Moreover, we intend to scrutinize the role of religion in shaping our perception of the human-technology relationship. Religious values and principles may provide valuable guidance in promoting ethical and responsible AI applications. We also welcome analyses of how AI systems affect religious institutions and practices and how they might be adapted to accommodate the opportunities and challenges presented by this transformative technology.

Our objective

JLR seeks to provide a comprehensive understanding of the risks and opportunities of AI systems from the unique lens of law and religion. Our ultimate objective is to explore how AI can advance human existence responsibly and ethically. By fostering informed and thoughtful discourse, we strive to contribute to the development of policies and frameworks that ensure the responsible use of AI technologies.

Themes and questions

We welcome papers addressing the wide variety of issues raised by our focus and objective, but we encourage authors to address some of the following themes and questions. As with all submissions to *JLR*, we seek submissions that engage both law and religion with rigor and attend to the interactions between the two concepts or phenomena.

AI's impact on expertise, authority, and leadership in law and religion

- How will AI reasoning and predictions reshape traditional roles in law and religion?
- How might knowledge produced by AI redefine the meaning and societal value of authorship and authenticity, authority and expertise, reason and responsibility?

AI and religious belief and imagery – opportunities and challenges

- How do religious beliefs influence or challenge the development and expectations of AI systems?
- To what extent do the capabilities of AI challenge the theological or philosophical foundations of human dignity?

Law and religion as resources for mitigating AI risks

- What role do law and religion play in safeguarding human dignity in the age of AI?
- How can law and religion provide ideas and insights for developing trustworthy and responsible AI or for establishing effective regulation of AI?

Adaptation of evolving technologies – lessons from the history of law and religion

- What historical roles have law and religion played in the adoption and assimilation of new technologies?
- What approaches and strategies developed by law and religion enabled adaptations to new technologies and mitigations of their risks?

Submission Guidelines & Timeline

Scholars interested in contributing a paper for this symposium should submit a proposal to managing editor Silas Allard at silas.allard@emory.edu by **Dec. 15, 2023**. The proposal should include the author(s)' name(s), affiliation(s), a proposed title for the article, and an abstract of not more than 500 words. Please attach your proposal as a .doc, .docx, or .pdf attachment to the email.

Invitations to submit a paper will be extended by the editors based on review of the abstracts, no later than **January 15, 2024**.

Final drafts of papers will be due **June 15, 2024**, and the symposium is scheduled to publish in the January 2025 issue of the journal. All papers will be peer reviewed through double-anonymous, external review prior to an offer of publication. For more information about the *Journal of Law and Religion* visit www.cambridge.org/jlr.