

## **GUEST EDITORS' NOTE ON LAW AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES: THE WAY FORWARD**

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This Special Issue of the BRICS Law Journal is devoted to one of the most intriguing, promising and highly relevant research areas – the synergy of law and digital technologies. At present, digital technologies have been capturing all spheres of our life. Its potential is significant, and opportunities for application are genuinely limitless. Its emergence is also connected with risks and threats that can be minimized by designing proper regulations. At the same time, the design of such regulation represents a massive challenge to the law and lawmakers and requires in-depth research. Therefore, discussing state-of-the-art issues and defining future steps in regulating digital technologies worldwide is crucial.

That was the idea of creating the Research Group “Law, Digital Technologies & ADR.” The Group was launched in 2021 with the primary aim – of creating an international virtual hub for research and cross-cultural collaboration in the sphere of Law and Digital Technologies from the global and comparative perspective. The Group united young and experienced researchers from 7 countries (Brazil, USA, Russia, Italy, India, Portugal and Uganda) and was co-hosted by South Ural State University, Ambra University, and Universidade Candido Mendes.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Research Group “Law, Digital Technologies & ADR” (official website) (Jan. 12, 2023), available at <https://adrdt.ambra.education/>.

The Conference “Law and Digital Technologies: The Way Forward” was held to provide the participants of the Research Group with the opportunity to present the results of their research. This Conference also gave a unique chance for researchers to discuss law and digital technologies and do international networking.<sup>2</sup> The Conference had more than 120 participants from Russia, Brazil, India, the USA, Italy, Spain, the United Kingdom, Slovenia, Poland, Romania, etc.

BRICS Law Journal was the partnering Journal of the Research Group and the Conference, and this is how the Special Issue “Law and Digital Technologies: The Way Forward” was born. This Special Issue is a collection of the best papers of the Conference participants and experts on highly relevant topics in the sphere of law and digital technologies convergence. Here the readers will find solutions to the cutting-edge legal issues of using digital technologies in criminal law and procedure, labor relations, privacy and personal data protection. The special issue is international with the contributions of authors from Russia, Brazil, United Arab Emirates, India, China, and Italy.

We genuinely hope readers will find this Special Issue valuable and informative. The papers gathered here may be regarded as the natural step forward for lawmaking and future research in law and digital technologies.

We want to thank all authors, Research Group and Conference participants for their papers. And, of course, our unique and enormous gratitude to professor Elena Gladun, the Editor-in-Chief of the BRICS Law Journal, for her constant support of our projects and the significant contribution she is making to develop legal research and collaboration!

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<sup>2</sup> Conference “Law and Digital Technologies: The Way Forward” (official webpage) (Jan. 12, 2023), available at <https://adrdt.ambra.education/conference/>.