Call for Abstracts: Edited Volume
AI Alignment: Perspectives in Law and Ethics

Overview

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is increasingly deployed in domains with profound ethical and legal implications—including healthcare, finance, education, and public administration. Yet it remains misleading to describe AI systems themselves as *moral* or *legal* entities. Rather, AI must be aligned with legal and ethical norms. AI alignment is a complex, iterative process of configuring machine systems to adhere to human-defined norms, values, and legal frameworks (Dignum 2019; Russell 2019; Christian 2020). This call for papers for an edited volume investigates the relational and procedural nature of alignment, understanding it not as a property of machines alone but as a dynamic form of human–machine interaction embedded in social, institutional, and regulatory contexts.

Aim and Scope

The volume aims to bring together scholars from philosophy, law, computer science, and the social sciences to examine the normative, epistemic, and ontological structures underlying AI alignment practices. It seeks to clarify the conceptual foundations of "ethical" and "legal" AI, to analyze the principles that guide alignment, and to critically evaluate the status of contemporary AI systems—especially Large Language Models (LLMs) trained on ethical and legal principles.

Guiding Questions

The volume will focus on three interrelated clusters of questions:

1. **Moral and Legal Status of AI Systems**
   o In what sense, if any, can an AI system be described as *moral* or *legal*?
   o Are such attributions metaphorical, functional, or grounded in more substantive concepts of agency and responsibility?
   o How do legal systems and ethical theories conceptualize the status of artificial agents?
   o In what ways is the legal or moral conceptualization of AI as agents correctly or falsely determined by established Western paradigms, such as 'freedom' or the irreducible 'individuality of personality"? What legal limits correctly or incorrectly impose these principles on the legal status (legal personality) and the creations of LLMs (copyright, etc.).

2. **Normativity of Alignment Practices**
   o Which normative principles and value commitments inform the development, evaluation, and governance of aligned AI?
   o How do ethical and legal norms as well as and socio-technical infrastructures shape alignment procedures?
   o What tensions arise between ethical principles, legal requirements, and technical feasibility?

3. **Status of Large Language Models Under Ethical and Legal Training**
   o What is the normative, epistemic, and ontological status of LLMs that have been trained or fine-tuned according to ethical or legal principles?
   o To what extent can such models meaningfully "embody" norms, and how does this embodiment compare to human norm cognition and reasoning?
   o How do LLMs transform the practice of norm-application, interpretation, and enforcement in legal and ethical contexts?

Contribution to Research and Practice

By addressing these questions, the volume aims to make a significant contribution to ongoing debates on trustworthy and aligned AI. It will illuminate the interplay between human agency, machine capabilities, and institutional frameworks. Furthermore, it aims to refine the conceptual tools needed to assess AI systems normatively, and help develop more robust and context-sensitive models of alignment that integrate legal and ethical perspectives.

Format
- Book publication and workshop (hybrid)
- The publication is targeted at leading international publishers, such as Cambridge University Press, Routledge, Wiley.
- Depending on the number and quality of submissions, more than one publication is possible (including a special journal issue).

Editors
- Hans Lind (Ph.D. Yale University) is a legal scholar interested in the interplay of law, philosophy and the humanities. He is currently Fellow of the Austrian Science Fund at Tübingen University. He previously acted as lecturer at Yale University and Vienna University, and served as head (coordinator) of the Yale Whitney Humanities Center

working group "Cultural Foundations of Law and Public Administration". He is currently under contract with Routledge.

- Jörg Noller (Ph.D., Dr. habil. LMU Munich) is a philosopher specializing in practical philosophy, Kantian philosophy, and the ethics of AI. He is currently Principal Investigator at Leipzig University and was visiting researcher at the University of Chicago, the University of Notre Dame, and the University of Pittsburgh. He has extensively published on AI and is co-founder of the open access journal *Philosophy & Digitality*. He has published with Cambridge University Press, Routledge, and Palgrave, among others. His new book, *AI Maturity*, is under contract with CUP.

Submission Guidelines

Interested authors are invited to submit a title, an abstract of approximately 500 words, and a short academic biography by **April 15, 2026**.

Submissions should be sent as a single PDF document to both editors at the following email addresses: hans.lind@uzh.ch and joerg.noller@lrz.uni-muenchen.de.

Authors of accepted abstracts will be notified by the end of May 2026. Full chapter manuscripts will be due by a later date to be communicated upon acceptance.