THEMATIC FOCUS:
Language and Law in the Human-Machine Era

EDITORIAL

"Law, Language and Technology"

The papers presented in the following section of the volume are fruits of an international cooperation project called LITHME (Language in the Human-Machine Era), launched in 2020. LITHME is a COST Action network with members from every EU member state and a number of other countries outside the EU. The overall aim of the project is to facilitate longer-term dialogue between linguists and technology developers and to prepare researchers of the related disciplines for what is to be expected during and after the transition from the *digital era* to the *human-machine era*. The members of the network are academics and researchers whose main goal is explore the implications of the fast emergence of new types of language technologies on specific areas related to language use.

As pervasive human-machine interfaces affect language in diverse areas, LITHME works under eight Working Groups: 1) Computational linguistics, 2) Language and law, 3) Language rights, 4) Language diversity, vitality and endangerment, 5) Language learning and teaching, 6) Ideologies, beliefs, attitudes, 7) Language work, language professionals and 8) Language variation.

Colleagues working at the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences of the Pázmány Péter Catholic University (PPKE JÁK), Budapest, have been actively involved in the work and leadership of Working Group 2 (WG2) whose members are highly qualified and committed lawyers, linguists and legal technology experts and whose main focus is the investigation of interactions between law, language and technology. Between 2020 October and 2023 January, the group was chaired by Dr. Petra Lea Láncos, followed by Dr. Dorka Balogh who has been chairing the group since February 2023, together with co-chairs Dr. Balázs Szabolcs Gerencsér (PPKE JÁK) and Dr. Fernando Prieto Ramos (University of Geneva). WG2 organizes several talks and presentations online and, furthermore, annual onsite workshops where members come together and share their research results.

In 2022 September, the first post-covid, in-person workshop was held in Budapest at PPKE JÁK, where the idea of the publication of the research findings of WG2 members present at the Budapest workshop was born. The papers that were selected for publication approach the subject matter of WG2 research from many different

angles (legal language, legal translation, the translatability of legal language, storytelling in legislative drafting, machine translation, interoperable registers in e-government services, remote interpreting in criminal proceedings, large language models [LLMs] and blockchain technology serving as next generation legal tech tools, new technologies applied in online interpreter accreditation testing), hence, they provide an overview of a broad spectrum of interfaces between law, language and technology.

Thus, the following papers are inter- and cross-disciplinary, covering legal and other sciences, facing the future challenges of language and law. Studies look at the human being and society behind the technology, which gives them added value beyond simple technological analysis.

Finally, we would like to express special thanks to the graduate students of PPKE JÁK who assisted our work by copy-editing the submitted papers and thereby contributed to the accomplishment of the publication: János Tettinger, Péter Bozori, Kiara Jáger-Káposzta, Ákos Balázs Kemény, Orsolya Kocsis, Kata Mezős, Míra Olasz, and Nóra Szili.

<div align="right">

Dorka Balogh and Balázs Szabolcs Gerencsér
Section Editors

</div>