

Research Fellow in Artificial Intelligence and the Rule of Law

Salary: £35,000 - £39,000
Location: Russell Square, London
Term: One year, with possible extension TBC
Hours: Full time

Background

1. The Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law exists to advance the Rule of Law, proactively, worldwide. The Centre aims to have a direct impact on law, policy and decision-making and to do so by carrying out and disseminating independent, high quality research on the major Rule of Law issues of the day.
2. The Bingham Centre is part of the British Institute of International and Comparative Law (BIICL), one of the leading independent research centres for international and comparative law in the world.
3. Rapid advances in digital technologies bring both opportunities and challenges for the Rule of Law, and the [Rule of Law in the Digital Age](#) is therefore one of the Bingham Centre's research priorities. We are looking to appoint a strong candidate to a new post which is being created to enable the Bingham Centre to respond to the complex Rule of Law challenges created by the growing role of artificial intelligence (AI) in contemporary society. The post requires a combination of expertise in AI, the legal regulation and ethics of new data-driven technology as well as good public engagement skills.
4. This is an exciting opportunity to demonstrate both scholarly and practical leadership in this field, and to have a direct impact on legal and policy developments, at a time of momentous change. The position is an applied research post and includes extensive external engagement. The Bingham Centre regularly engages with with parliaments and parliamentarians from all parties and in a variety of countries; ministers and civil servants; judges; the legal profession; international organisations such as the UN, the EU, the Council of Europe and the Commonwealth; civil society groups; and academics.
5. Within the field of AI and the Rule of Law, the Bingham Centre collaborates with organisations including the Alan Turing Institute, the Ada Lovelace Institute, the Munich Center for Technology in Society (MCTS) and the Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Data Governance (CAIDG) at the Singapore Management University. One of our current projects in this field examines [Rule of Law, Legitimacy and Effective COVID-19 Control Technologies](#) including a comparative analysis of contact tracing apps. This collaboration with MCTS and CAIDG will run until mid-2021. The successful candidate may have the opportunity to join this project.

6. We are in the final stages of obtaining funding approval for another project, on the Role of the Rule of Law and Good Governance in Building Public Trust in Data-Driven Responses to Public Health Emergencies. This is a collaboration with leading UK-based experts in AI and data governance.
If funding is confirmed, we may be in a position to appoint two candidates, one of whom will work on this project.
7. Examples of recent events we have run within the AI field include a wide-ranging webinar on [The Rule of Law in the technological age](#) for a project on the Rule of Law and Democracy funded by the EU Commission, and [The Rule of Law online: who targets me and what does it mean for my rights?](#), funded by the City of London Corporation. The successful candidate will have the opportunity to convene similar events.

Job Description

8. The Research Fellow in AI and the Rule of Law will be expected to undertake the following:
 - Help to develop the research programme in relation to AI and the Rule of Law, including contributing to the development of a research and impact strategy for the Bingham Centre's wider programmes in the Rule of Law in the Digital Age;
 - Undertake and publish high quality research capable of influencing policy;
 - Develop and manage research projects effectively and efficiently;
 - Seek and obtain research and other funding from funding bodies, firms and other donors;
 - Develop and maintain partnerships with key organisations;
 - Supervise the work of research assistants;
 - Engage appropriately and well with practitioners and others working in the field of AI and the Rule of Law;
 - Contribute to events and training in relation to AI and the Rule of Law, directing and co-ordinating and speaking at such events as necessary, and obtain event sponsorship;
 - Liaise and collaborate with other researchers in BIICL working in related areas;
 - Be a public advocate for BIICL and the Bingham Centre; and
 - Assist in a collegial way with the outreach and administrative activities of BIICL and the Bingham Centre;
9. This is a full-time post, initially for one year, but with the possibility of extension. **Consideration will be given to secondments or a slightly less than full-time role, if requested.** A salary package of between **£35,000 and £39,000 pa** is expected, depending on qualifications and experience. It is hoped that the person appointed will commence as soon as possible.

Person Specification

10. The successful applicant will demonstrate the following mix of experience, skills and attributes:
 - Expertise in AI, and the legal regulation and ethics of new data-driven technology, and recent research or practical experience in this field;
 - A good degree in a relevant field, with a PhD being an advantage;
 - Leadership and co-ordination of research activity;
 - A track record in seeking, obtaining and managing research funding;

- A strong interest in, and preferable experience of, impact-oriented research which is capable of influencing policy;
- A record of interacting appropriately with others, including scholars, practitioners, civil society, policy-makers and external organisations;
- An ability to lead, organise and manage seminars, conferences, training and other events to a high standard and to speak at, and chair, events;
- Experience of supervising more junior researchers and research assistants and assisting in their career development;
- Evidence of highly effective communication skills in disseminating research findings and other activities to a wide community;
- Self-starting and self-sufficient, and able to deal efficiently and effectively with administrative responsibilities; and
- An ability and willingness to work collaboratively and collegially with colleagues.

Application Process

11. The deadline for applications is 23:59 GMT on **Sunday 17th January 2021**. Applicants should send the following by email to jobs@biicl.org:

- A completed BIICL application cover form (available at www.biicl.org/vacancies) including the names and addresses of three referees (two of whom can be contacted prior to interview);
- A full curriculum vitae; and
- A covering letter setting out their reasons for applying and how they consider that they meet the person specification for this post.

Please ensure that you put the **full title of the role** you are applying for in the **email subject line**.

12. Informal enquiries may be addressed to the Acting Deputy Director of the Bingham Centre, Dr Jan van Zyl Smit (j.vanzylsmit@binghamcentre.biicl.org).
13. Applicants are encouraged to find out more about the Centre, its members of staff and activities at <http://binghamcentre.biicl.org/>.
14. To be considered for this role, all applicants must currently have the right to work in the UK or be in a position to secure the right to work in the UK by the date of commencement of employment.
15. BIICL and the Bingham Centre encourage applications regardless of race, sex, disability, religion/belief, sexual orientation or age. We particularly welcome applications from under-represented groups.