

LAW AND GOVERNANCE IN THE DIGITAL EPOCH: AI, AUTONOMY & PUBLIC INNOVATION

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We are pleased to present Volume 3, Number 1 of the *Brazilian Journal of Law, Technology and Innovation*, a milestone that signals the consolidation of the journal in its third year of uninterrupted publication. During this brief but intense trajectory, the journal has become a recognized forum for interdisciplinary debate at the intersection of legal studies, technological advances and innovative public policies. Its growing international readership and robust submission pipeline testify to the relevance of the themes we address and to the quality standards enforced by our editorial board. With each issue we refine our editorial processes, expand our reviewer network and strengthen our commitment to open access and rigorous peer review. The present volume gathers nine original contributions that reflect the diversity of contemporary concerns, ranging from digital government and artificial intelligence to data protection and tax innovation. Together, these articles offer both theoretical insight and practical guidance for scholars, practitioners and policy-makers navigating the complex legal challenges of the digital age.

Opening the issue, Clóvis Reimão proposes “The Ten Commandments of Excellent Digital Government,” a normative framework inspired by comparative-law research and leading international experiences. The author asks how public authorities can truly satisfy citizens’ needs in an increasingly virtual administrative environment. He distills his findings into ten concise imperatives that set both objectives and boundaries for digital transformation in the public sector. Throughout the article, a humanist perspective prevails, placing dignity, accessibility and accountability at the center of technological adoption. Reimão’s commandments thus serve not merely as best-practice suggestions but as constitutional-level duties that governments should internalize. By grounding aspiration in comparative evidence, the piece invites governments worldwide to benchmark their initiatives against a

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citizen-focused yardstick.

In the second contribution, Gustavo Melo investigates mechanisms to curb anticompetitive conduct by Big Tech companies in their deployment of artificial intelligence within Brazil. The study meticulously reviews existing provisions of Brazilian antitrust law, highlighting the enforcement role of CADE and the doctrine of abuse of dominant position. It then scrutinizes Bill 2338/2023 and the Brazilian Artificial Intelligence Plan, evaluating their potential to close regulatory gaps and empower oversight authorities. Melo argues that the combined effect of pending and existing norms may create a comprehensive toolkit capable of preventing AI monopolization. His analysis is grounded in the peculiar economic characteristics of AI markets, such as data network effects and scale economies. The article ultimately offers legislators and regulators an evidence-based roadmap to foster innovation while preserving competitive markets.

Bruno Torquato Zampier Lacerda and Mariana Costa Martoni turn to the concept of digital private autonomy and its implications for individual freedom in the “onlife” world. Drawing on Pietro Perlingieri’s theory of mutable private autonomy, they interrogate how contractual self-determination is reshaped by platform architecture and algorithmic mediation. The authors posit that digital autonomy is not simply an extension of traditional private autonomy but a distinct branch with unique normative features. Through doctrinal analysis, they map the principle’s limits, emphasizing the need for safeguards that prevent technological asymmetries from eroding human dignity. Case studies illustrate both the emancipatory potential and the latent risks inherent in digitally-mediated consent and choice. By conceptualizing digital autonomy with analytical precision, the article offers a foundation for future legislative and judicial debates on user empowerment online.

Laura Affonso da Costa Levy’s contribution initiates a necessary dialogue between new technologies, artificial intelligence and bioethics. She surveys the rapid penetration of AI across sectors— from virtual assistants to medical diagnostics— and unpacks the ethical quandaries this ubiquity generates. The analysis foregrounds principles of responsibility, justice and global human well-being, cautioning against technocratic approaches that sideline moral reflection. Levy does not claim to resolve the dilemmas but instead offers a structured agenda for sustained interdisciplinary engagement. Her argument underscores that ethical deliberation must evolve in tandem with technological capability to prevent normative obsolescence. The piece thus equips readers with conceptual tools to navigate the moral frontier of AI-driven innovation.

Next, Gabriela Briesemeister and Sthéfane Alves Vasconcelos investigate digital democracy and its guarantee within the evolving

relationship between Brazilian state and society. They observe that expanded internet access has created unprecedented opportunities for civic participation across social strata. Yet, digital inclusion barriers persist, posing threats to the equitable exercise of citizenship and democratic rights. The authors analyze governmental responsibilities to ensure infrastructure, accessibility and legal protections that enable meaningful online engagement. Their discussion balances optimism about participatory technologies with a sober assessment of structural and regulatory challenges. Ultimately, the article calls for policies that transform digital interaction from a privilege into a universal democratic entitlement.

Rainier Garacis delves into the eligibility criteria for preparing a Personal Data Protection Impact Assessment (RIPD) under Brazil's LGPD. Emphasizing the RIPD as a risk-management tool, he reviews quantitative and qualitative triggers that mandate its adoption. Comparative insights from the GDPR illuminate both convergences and contextual divergences in compliance expectations. Garacis further examines the supervisory role of the Brazilian National Data Protection Authority and the operational challenges organizations face in practice. His nuanced analysis reveals that properly implemented RIPDs foster a culture of preventive governance and enhance legal certainty. The article therefore provides essential guidance for data controllers seeking to integrate privacy assessments into organizational routines.

Dayana de Carvalho Uhdre tackles the intricate nexus between digital reality, indirect taxation and emerging blockchain solutions. Surveying two decades of international VAT debate, the article identifies persistent obstacles in taxing cross-border electronic commerce. Brazilian reform proposals are contrasted with OECD guidelines, exposing gaps in customer identification, jurisdictional allocation and real-time collection. Uhdre proposes a forward-looking VAT 4.0 architecture that leverages distributed-ledger technology and smart contracts to embed compliance by design. Implementation prerequisites such as digital identities, e-invoicing standards and regulatory sandboxes are systematically mapped. By aligning tax administration with the borderless nature of digital markets, the study charts a feasible path toward a resilient, fraud-resistant system.

Alana Gabriela Engemann revisits the classical doctrine of jurisdiction through the lens of a borderless technological society. She demonstrates how internet expansion complicates territorial competence and precipitates concurrent jurisdictional claims. International co-operation mechanisms are analyzed as practical tools to reconcile sovereignty with the effectiveness of fundamental rights. The paper employs deductive and comparative methods to illustrate pathways for overcoming jurisdictional impasses in virtual disputes. Through doctrinal exposition and case discussion, Engemann

shows that co-operative frameworks can safeguard access to justice without eroding national autonomy. Her conclusions advance the debate on how global connectivity demands equally interconnected legal solutions.

Closing the issue, José Luiz de Moura Faleiros Júnior offers a comparative assessment of electronic, performance and digital government models. He argues that obsolete paradigms, though seminal in the twentieth century, no longer capture the challenges posed by emergent technologies. Law 14.129/2021 is examined as a pivotal step toward institutionalizing digital government as the most adequate archetype for the twenty-first-century public administration. Through qualitative, literature-based research, Faleiros Júnior traces the evolutionary trajectory of public-sector innovation and identifies critical gaps still to be addressed. The article positions digital government as a holistic framework integrating accessibility, transparency, efficiency and participatory governance. Its insights will assist legislators, administrators and scholars in refining policies that align administration with the information society's demands.

The Editorial Board extends its sincere gratitude to each author for entrusting us with their important work and to our dedicated reviewers for their invaluable, anonymous contributions. Their scholarly rigor and critical insights underpin the quality and credibility that readers have come to expect from the journal. We also thank the members of our international advisory council and the production team who ensure the seamless dissemination of every issue. As the journal advances into its fourth year, we renew our commitment to fostering interdisciplinary dialogue on law, technology and innovation. We warmly invite researchers and practitioners from around the world to submit original manuscripts that push the boundaries of this dynamic field. Together, we can continue to build a vibrant, inclusive community dedicated to shaping the legal frameworks of the digital future.

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