Editorial

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Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Journal of Law, Technology and Trust. The JLTT is a new, free-to-publish peer-reviewed journal that is open access and aims to contribute to the accessibility and diversity of academic and policy debate. The Journal welcomes diverse multidisciplinary contributions, embracing both academic opinion and commentary on developing practical and regulatory issues.

This inaugural issue is published against the background of the Covid-19 pandemic, at the end of a year that has seen significant changes, adaptations and restrictions to ways of working, education, healthcare, freedom of movement, personal lives and law-making, to name but a few. We have seen the rapid consolidation and centralisation of health data within integrated 'datastores' created using private sector technology, and deployment of digital technologies for exposure notification and to facilitate and manage home working (with consequential concerns over increased mandatory surveillance). Concerns have understandably been raised about individual privacy. We have also, however, seen challenges to law-makers' roles and to legislation passed by emergency Executive action in order to limit the impact of the pandemic by restricting movement, business activity and family life. Trust in new technologies and in the role of the law itself, has been pushed to the limit.

In this issue, we present two original research articles and two 'future-thinking' pieces.

Barker, Uribe-Jongbloed and Scholz, in their article 'Privacy as Public Good – A Comparative Assessment of the Challenge for CoronApps in Latin America', focus on the use of technology in contact tracing initiatives deployed in many countries as part of the Covid-19 response. They scrutinise the track and trace systems in Germany, the UK and Columbia, highlighting the potential tensions between the public health response and privacy as a public good in light of contextual and cultural differences, making recommendations to avoid 'pitting digital privacy rights against public health interests.'

Many of us have become reliant on virtual worlds during the pandemic and the frequent lockdowns. In his article ''World of Warcraft is My Home From Home': An Argument for the Protection of Virtual Worlds', Ramshaw takes a novel approach to the protection of virtual worlds, arguing that their long-term existence should not be based upon property or contract, but instead should be protected in light of the user's attachment to that world, taking inspiration from community empowerment principles that can be deployed to protect assets of community value.

In his future-thinking piece 'Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea (of data): navigating the temptations of the post-COVID hybrid campus', Cormack considers

'learning analytics' within Universities and colleges and their increased deployment during the pandemic. Noting that the pandemic may have already resulted in institutions collecting more data about their students and staff, Cormack proposes a four-step approach for assessing whether proposals for using such data will be viewed as trustworthy and trusted.

Napier and Vernile's future-thinking piece 'Space4Health: A Place for Satellite Applications and Technology in the UK COVID-19 Governance Framework' makes the link between global health issues and space-enabled technologies and their data-driven outputs, and discusses a risk-governance framework to enable such technologies to be integrated in pandemic recovery.

We would like to thank the peer-reviewers, editorial team and of course authors who have contributed their valuable time to creating this inaugural issue.

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