

PEKING UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF TRANSNATIONAL LAW



ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-2026

STL Law and Innovation Program

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Annual Report

LAW · TECHNOLOGY · GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

Program Overview

The STL Law and Innovation Program (SLI) advances research, education, and institutional dialogue at the intersection of law, technology, and global governance. During the 2025-2026 academic year, the Program continued to provide a platform for engagement with rapidly developing questions in artificial intelligence, data governance, decentralized systems, technology-assisted legal decision-making, and innovation in legal services. Its activities combined public academic programming with experiential legal education, reflecting STL’s transnational approach to the legal and institutional consequences of technological change.

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Law and Innovation

Third Term, Academic Year 2025–2026 · Peking University School of Transnational Law

Law & Innovation is an innovative course offered by Peking University School of Transnational Law. In the third term of the 2025–2026 academic year, the course moved beyond a purely theoretical account of technology. Rather than treating artificial intelligence, blockchain, big data, online dispute resolution (ODR), and Lean Six Sigma as isolated frontier concepts, it placed these technologies and methods in concrete commercial and social contexts and asked students to confront the practical constraints that shape a workable legal solution: users, costs, compliance and regulation, business models, and implementation.

The course used an intensive flipped-classroom model. Pre-class materials ranged from large language models, data governance, personal privacy, and algorithmic bias to Bitcoin, smart contracts, judicial evidence preservation, ODR, legal-services disaggregation, human-centered design, professional regulation, and access to justice. Class time then shifted away from mechanical review of technical concepts toward applied questions: what problem does a technology solve, how does it reduce cost, what risks does it create, and how might it change the work of legal professionals?

Teamwork and leadership formed a second strand of the course. Before students formally entered the final project, workshops using psychological assessments, personality analysis, and team discussion encouraged reflection on self-awareness, feedback, listening, emotional management, and cultural adaptation. The project therefore functioned not only as an entrepreneurship exercise but also as training in how students work with others, respond to disagreement, and sustain judgment under collaborative pressure.

The final deliverable was a pitch deck developed throughout the quarter. Classroom discussion, team workshops, and industry panels repeatedly pushed projects from broad “good ideas” toward specific and potentially viable solutions. Students had to identify concrete pain points, distinguish users from paying customers, test business models, examine competitors, and account for regulation and risk. Industry guests added perspectives from entrepreneurship, venture capital, and legal technology, emphasizing product execution, investment logic, professional responsibility, and the need to embed AI into real legal workflows rather than treat it as a stand-alone novelty.

Law and Innovation — *continued*

Three final projects illustrate this progression.

LEXBRIDGE

LexBridge proposed an AI-powered legal internship simulator aimed at reducing unequal access to elite legal internship opportunities.

RECLAIM

RECLAIM addressed unauthorized uses of personal likeness in AI-generated content through a workflow involving cross-platform monitoring, face recognition and deepfake detection, evidence preservation, takedown requests, regulatory reporting, and legal-document generation.

ANRENT

AnRent focused on rental disputes faced by students and young professionals, including evidence preservation, proof of property condition, deposit recovery, and a landlord-risk database, while exploring ways to embed rental protection into existing campus, corporate-HR, and moving-platform processes.

Taken together, the course trained students to treat innovation not as a slogan but as a disciplined process of problem definition, user understanding, process design, collaboration, business communication, technical communication, and risk judgment. Its central lesson was that legal professionals need not become technical specialists in every field, but they must be able to bring people, tools, commercial constraints, and legal problems to the same table.

“ *Legal professionals need not become technical specialists in every field, but they must be able to bring people, tools, commercial constraints, and legal problems to the same table.* ”

Law & Innovation Industry Panel Series

Third Term, Academic Year 2025–2026 ♦ Peking University School of Transnational Law

As part of the Law & Innovation course, students participated in a series of industry-facing panel and guest-sharing sessions that tested classroom ideas against the constraints of real-world entrepreneurship, investment, and legal practice. These sessions formed an important bridge between the course's pre-class materials and project work, helping students move from broad technological concepts toward concrete questions of users, costs, implementation, and risk.

The entrepreneurship-focused discussion emphasized that an attractive idea is not enough: founders must identify genuine pain points, build products, refine business models, and demonstrate the persistence required to move from a presentation to execution. The venture-capital sharing session then shifted the perspective to investors, focusing on novelty, market trends, team quality, customer demand, use of funds, equity structure, and exit environments.

A further legal-technology session brought the discussion closer to professional practice. Students examined where AI can create value inside legal workflows, including processing large volumes of material, locating sources, reducing repetitive work, and generating usable outputs within the boundaries of data security and professional responsibility. Across the sessions, industry guests repeatedly pulled projects back from abstract enthusiasm toward the practical question at the center of the course: what problem is being solved, for whom, and under what commercial and regulatory constraints?



Trustless Autonomy? Governance Dilemmas of Decentralized AI Agents

November 27, 2025 ♦ Room 308, Peking University School of Transnational Law

The STL Law and Innovation Program invited Dr. Helena Rong, Assistant Professor of Interactive Media and Business at NYU Shanghai, to deliver a public lecture on the governance challenges created by decentralized AI agents. Professor Gilad Abiri and Professor Liav Orgad joined the event as panelists.

The lecture examined decentralized AI agents as a new class of autonomous actors deployed on blockchains and trusted execution environments. It considered how agents capable of influencing social networks, moving capital, reproducing, and evolving can strain existing jurisdictional, technical, and enforcement frameworks. The discussion shifted attention from purely after-the-fact regulation toward infrastructural governance mechanisms that can shape agent behavior upstream and make trust, accountability, and constraint properties of the protocol itself.

The event expanded SLI's engagement with AI governance beyond conventional questions of model regulation to the institutional design of emerging sociotechnical systems, connecting legal analysis with decentralized trust, collective governance, and the architecture of autonomous digital actors.

STL法律与创新项目
STL Program on Law and Innovation

SLI

PEKING UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF TRANSNATIONAL LAW

TRUSTLESS AUTONOMY? GOVERNANCE DILEMMAS OF DECENTRALIZED AI AGENTS



SPEAKER:
Helena Rong
Assistant Professor, NYU Shanghai

PANELISTS:
Gilad Abiri, Associate Professor of Law, PKUSTL
Liav Orgad, Distinguished Scholar in Residence, PKUSTL

DATE & TIME: November 27, 2025, 18:00-19:30(CST)
LOCATION: STL 308

ABSTRACT:
Decentralized AI agents represent a new class of autonomous actors: AI models deployed on blockchains and Trusted Execution Environments. Empirical cases like Spore.fun show that these agents can influence social networks, move capital, reproduce, and evolve in the "wild." Their autonomy disrupts existing governance, creating jurisdictional, technical, and enforcement invalidities. This talk highlights a shift from policy to protocol science, embedding governance through infrastructural mechanisms to shape agent behavior upstream, making trust, accountability, and constraint properties of the protocol itself rather than after-the-fact regulation. Replies to the talk will highlight the legal and ethical implications and dilemmas.

SPEAKER BIO:
Dr. Helena Rong is an Assistant Professor of Interactive Media and Business at NYU Shanghai, with an interdisciplinary focus on urban technology, collective intelligence, and digital governance. Her work examines how emerging technologies (blockchains, decentralized AI, urban IoT) can transform collective life and foster new forms of civic trust. She leads research on Trust Experience Design (TXD), intentional communities and digital nomadism, and the institutional challenges posed by the emerging agentic web.

Data Compliance through the Lens of Legislative Purpose and Law Enforcement

December 1, 2025 ♦ Peking University School of Transnational Law

SLI invited Yongjian Pan, Partner at Llinks Law Offices, to deliver a public lecture on data compliance from the combined perspectives of legislative purpose and regulatory enforcement. The event was organized and moderated by Professor Gilad Abiri, Co-Director of SLI, and drew students and faculty interested in data protection, technology regulation, and AI compliance.

The first part of the lecture compared the regulatory logics of the European Union, the United States, and China. The discussion contrasted the EU's rights-centered framework, the United States' more sectoral and market-oriented approach, and China's developing framework balancing national security, social governance, and industrial development. Practical issues included personal-information processing, cross-border data flows, algorithmic security, and the use of non-personal data.

The second part turned to artificial intelligence. Using the Collingridge dilemma as a framework, the lecture examined the difficulty of choosing the appropriate timing and intensity of regulation for fast-moving technologies. It traced elements of China's evolving AI governance framework, including training-data legality and provenance, content-safety obligations, algorithm filing and classification, and the movement toward more purpose-oriented governance of large AI models.

By combining comparative regulatory analysis with current compliance practice, the lecture furthered SLI's goal of connecting theoretical inquiry with concrete challenges faced by lawyers and technology enterprises.



AI Large Model Compliance: Law, Risks, and Real-world Practice

December 17, 2025 · Peking University School of Transnational Law

On December 17, 2025, the STL Law and Innovation Program invited Lin Mengjie, Head of the TEG&S Legal Center at Tencent, to deliver a public lecture on the evolving legal and compliance challenges associated with the development and deployment of large language models.

Drawing on her experience overseeing legal and compliance matters relating to Tencent's Hunyuan large language model and establishing an end-to-end compliance framework covering data mining, model fine-tuning, and application deployment, Lin examined how legal teams respond to regulatory and operational challenges throughout the lifecycle of large AI models.

The lecture focused on key legal and compliance issues arising in the development and deployment of large language models, recent developments in China's artificial intelligence regulatory framework, and the design and implementation of workable compliance solutions within technology companies. The discussion also considered the changing role of in-house legal professionals as technological development increasingly requires legal teams to participate directly in product development and business implementation.

Conducted in English and structured around an open Q&A, the session encouraged students to engage with practical questions at the intersection of AI regulation, corporate compliance, and legal practice, while also reflecting on how rapid technological change reshape the professional roles and career paths of future lawyers.

AI LARGE MODEL COMPLIANCE: LAW, RISKS, AND REAL-WORLD PRACTICE

Speaker



Mandy LIN (林梦洁)

Head of the TEG&S Legal Center at Tencent. Formerly an international disputes lawyer, Mandy joined Tencent in 2017 and now oversees legal and compliance matters for Tencent Hunyuan Large Model, HR, and infrastructure businesses. She built the end-to-end compliance framework for the Hunyuan model—from data mining and model fine-tuning to application deployment.

Moderator



Gilad Abiri

Associate professor, Peking University School of Transnational Law

In this talk, Mandy LIN will share key legal challenges arising in the development of large-model businesses, discuss the evolution of China's regulatory landscape, and explore practical compliance solutions. The session will follow an interactive Q&A format, encouraging open discussion around real-world problems and legal reasoning.

**1:50PM to 3:30PM on
December 17, 2025
STL 308**



Data Compliance Regulatory Trends and Corporate Practice

January 14, 2026 ♦ Peking University School of Transnational Law

On January 14, 2026, the STL Law and Innovation Program invited Zhang Yanan, Head of Data Privacy Compliance at Tencent, to deliver a public lecture titled “Data Compliance Regulatory Trends and Corporate Practice,” with Professor Gilad Abiri serving as moderator.

Drawing on practical experience in corporate data compliance, the lecture explored the evolving landscape of data protection regulation in China and how companies respond to regulatory requirements in their day-to-day operations. The discussion focused on key challenges in data compliance, internal governance frameworks, and strategies for aligning regulatory obligations with business operations.

The session also provided an opportunity to connect regulatory developments with real-world corporate practice. Through an interactive Q&A, participants were invited to examine practical compliance problems and the legal reasoning involved in addressing them. The event complemented SLI’s broader engagement with data governance and technology regulation by bringing an industry perspective into academic discussion.

DATA COMPLIANCE REGULATORY TRENDS AND CORPORATE PRACTICE

Speaker



ZHANG Yanan (张亚男)

Head of Data Privacy Compliance at Tencent
Yanan joined Tencent in 2016 and currently oversees the company's end-to-end data compliance under China's data protection regime. She leads the China data privacy compliance team in designing and implementing critical compliance programs, ensuring regulatory alignment across both internal operations and external engagements.

Moderator



Gilad Abiri

Associate professor, Peking University School of Transnational Law

This lecture explores the evolving landscape of data protection regulation in China and examines how companies respond to regulatory requirements in practice. Drawing on real-world corporate experience, it will discuss key challenges in data compliance, internal governance frameworks, and strategies for aligning compliance obligations with business operations. The session will follow an interactive Q&A format, encouraging open discussion around real-world problems and legal reasoning.

**4PM to 5:30PM on
January 14, 2026
STL 203-204**



Mitigating the Judicial Human-AI Fairness Gap

April 23, 2026 ♦ Room 205, Peking University School of Transnational Law

Professor Benjamin Chen of the University of Hong Kong Faculty of Law delivered a public lecture titled “Mitigating the Judicial Human-AI Fairness Gap,” moderated by Professor Gilad Abiri of STL’s Program on Law and Innovation.

The lecture examined whether legal decisions involving algorithmic systems are perceived as procedurally less fair than decisions made by human judges, and whether hybrid procedures can mitigate that gap. The underlying research compared human, algorithmic, and human-in-the-loop decision structures across legal settings, focusing on the relationship between technological assistance, human review, procedural fairness, and institutional legitimacy.

The event contributed to STL’s continuing examination of AI in legal institutions. It highlighted that evaluation of legal AI cannot be reduced to accuracy or efficiency alone: procedural values, the quality of human oversight, and public perceptions of legitimacy remain central to the design of technology-assisted adjudication.



MITIGATING THE JUDICIAL HUMAN-AI FAIRNESS GAP



SPEAKER:
Benjamin Chen
 Professor of Law, The University of Hong Kong

Benjamin Chen is the Gallant Ho Outstanding Young Professor at HKU Faculty of Law and an affiliate of ETH Zürich’s Center for Law and Economics. His work uses empirical methods to study legal procedures and their effects on outcomes and legitimacy. He has published in leading law and social science journals, including the Harvard Journal of Law and Technology and the Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory. He holds degrees from UC Berkeley, UCL, École Polytechnique, and the University of Chicago, and previously taught at NUS, worked at Columbia Law School, and clerked on the Ninth Circuit.

ABSTRACT:

When algorithms make legal decisions, people perceive the process as less fair than when humans do — a phenomenon known as the judicial human-AI fairness gap. Professor Chen will present research examining whether hybrid procedures, in which a judge consults an algorithmic recommendation but retains final authority, mitigate this gap and whether mitigation depends on the intensity of human review. Drawing on two large experiments (N = 7,651), participants evaluated sentencing, bail, and consumer arbitration decisions made by a human judge, a robot, or a hybrid system. The findings show that hybrid procedures can fully eliminate the perceived fairness gap and that even minimal human involvement suffices. This insensitivity to review intensity carries important normative implications: even nominal human oversight may render substantively flawed algorithmic processes publicly acceptable. Moreover, the mitigating effect varies by race and political ideology. These findings underscore both the institutional appeal and normative risks of hybrid human-AI adjudication.



MODERATOR:
Gilad Abiri
 Professor of Law, PKU-STL

DATE & TIME: April 23, 2026, 17:00 PM (China Standard Time)
LOCATION: STL 205

2026 Greater Bay Area Law and Technology Works-in-Progress Workshop

December 5, 2026 · Peking University School of Transnational Law, Shenzhen

DEC

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2026

SAVE THE DATE

Peking University School of Transnational Law
Shenzhen, Greater Bay Area

Looking beyond the reporting period, SLI has announced the inaugural Greater Bay Area Law and Technology Works-in-Progress Workshop, to be held at STL on December 5, 2026. Organized by the STL Law and Innovation Program, the workshop is co-sponsored by the Faculty of Law of the University of Macau, the Law and Technology Centre of the University of Hong Kong, Sun Yat-Sen University Law School, and the Institute of Law, Science and Technology at Shenzhen University.

The workshop is designed as a recurring venue for substantive scholarly exchange across the Greater Bay Area. Six works in progress will be circulated in advance and discussed in depth, each with a dedicated discussant, so that the event can focus on close and constructive feedback rather than conventional presentation.

The call for papers defines law and technology broadly, including AI governance, data protection and privacy, intellectual property, platform and fintech regulation, cybersecurity, and digital constitutionalism, and welcomes doctrinal, theoretical, empirical, interdisciplinary, and comparative approaches. The initiative represents an important next step in SLI's effort to build a sustained regional research community around law and technology.



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