THEME: Cyberspace, Privacy and Data Protection

PROJECT: Parliaments and Artificial Intelligence: Oversight, Regulation and Policy

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Supervisory Team: Dr Muiris MacCarthaigh, Dr Deepak Padmanabhan

Primary Location: Mitchell Institute

Governments across the globe are adopting Artificial Intelligence (AI) and machine-learning technologies to address societal challenges, from disease eradication to agricultural development to social welfare system reform. In 2018 the European Commission published its strategy to foster the development and use of AI in Europe. It is well documented that these new technologies and policy developments present challenges for governments and their administrative systems, such as controlling costs, managing complex IT systems and upholding public service values of fairness and impartiality.

But what roles do and should national parliaments play in these developments and does the challenge of AI require new approaches from those used to address other policy problems that come before parliaments?

The purpose of this PhD project will be:

a) to identify the challenges AI pose for parliaments in respect of their traditional roles of executive oversight, legislative development and financial control
b) to examine the response to date of legislatures across Europe and the European Parliament, to the regulatory and policy challenges presented by AI in government,
c) to identify how best these challenges might be addressed.

The project may also consider the use of AI and machine learning *within* legislatures and how parliaments are using new technologies to perform their functions.
The primary disciplinary location will be political science but the project traverses both social (political) science and computer science and therefore the successful candidate will be expected to engage with both disciplines. Aptitude in computer science will therefore be welcome, but not essential.

The successful candidate will be expected to engage with the Political Studies Association's Specialist Group on Parliaments https://www.psa.ac.uk/specialist-groups/parliaments

Primary Academic Discipline: Politics