



Call for Papers

Durham University

Durham Law School

19-20 May 2025

International Conference on IP and AI in the Age of Technology Race

Durham Law School is pleased to partner with the JustNOW Initiative, Durham Centre for Sustainable Development Law and Policy, the School of Law at the City University of Hong Kong and the School of Law at Texas A&M University to host the conference in Durham, United Kingdom.

We invite abstracts for the 2025 conference focusing on IP and AI in the age of technology race. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is reshaping industries, economies, and legal frameworks, driving nations into a competitive technology race. Intellectual Property (IP) law regulates AI-driven innovation, promotes technological progress, and ensures equitable access to its benefits. While much of the current discussion on IP and AI is informed by Western perspectives, emerging insights from Asia and other regions deserve further exploration. This conference aims to broaden the conversation by integrating diverse global and regional viewpoints, examining how different jurisdictions address the evolving challenges and opportunities in the AI landscape.

Themes and Topics:

We invite scholars, practitioners, policymakers, and industry experts to submit papers exploring, but not limited to, the following themes:

1. IP Frameworks and AI Innovation

- Comparative studies of AI patenting systems across jurisdictions.
- Copyright protection for AI-generated content: Global and regional perspectives.
- Challenges in trademark protection and branding in AI-driven markets.
- Managing trade secrets and data protection in AI training models.

2. AI Regulation and Policy in the Technology Race

- The role of IP law in advancing technological sovereignty and competitiveness.
- Comparative regulatory frameworks for AI in Europe, Asia, and the Americas.
- Impacts of the technology race on international IP treaties and harmonisation.
- National AI strategies and their integration with IP policies. Views from non-western jurisdictions, such as Asia, are welcome.

3. Socio-Economic Impacts and Ethical Considerations

- How AI advances climate resilience and its implications for IP frameworks, such as patenting green technologies or incentivising sustainable AI innovation.
- Balancing the need for IP protections with equitable access to AI technologies addressing sustainability challenges, particularly in developing regions.
- Cultural preservation amidst climate change: AI-driven approaches to safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and the role of IP in protecting these innovations.
- Intersections of IP, AI, and international climate agreements and the potential for harmonised global strategies to address shared sustainability goals.

4. Industry and Sectoral Impacts

- Case studies on AI adoption in legal practice, creative industries, gaming, and digital content.
- Leveraging IP rights to foster AI-driven innovation.
- The intersection of AI, IP, and international trade in cross-border technology transfer.
- Strategies for adapting IP frameworks to emerging AI-driven business models in traditional sectors such as manufacturing, agriculture, and healthcare.

Submission Guidelines:

- **Abstract submission:** Please submit an abstract of up to 300 words, including the author's name, title, and affiliation, with the email title: AI and IP – [Name] submission. Also, please submit a short bio of 150 words.
- **Deadline:** 15 February 2025 (rolling acceptance)
- **Submission Email:** mingyue.xu@durham.ac.uk



Contact person:

Associate Professor in IP Law

Jia Wang (she/her)

Durham Law School, Durham University

jia.wang2@durham.ac.uk

Event Coordinator (PhD Candidate)

Mingyue Xu (she/her)

Durham Law School, Durham University

mingyue.xu@durham.ac.uk