LEGAL TECH

Dr. Philip Hanke, LL.M.

The seminar discusses computational methods in the legal profession. The use of advanced technology in legal practice (Legal Tech) is currently taking off, both in Switzerland and in the rest of the world, a development that is also found in related and sometimes overlapping fields (financial industry: FinTech, insurance industry: InsureTech, regulation: RegTech, etc.).

Many tasks are automated and commoditized, while a new ecosystem of law firms, tech entrepreneurs, academics and other professionals is emerging. It is therefore of importance that prospective lawyers and policy experts develop some knowledge of the different data-driven or rule-based tools used in the industry.

As a result, this seminar will give its participants an introduction to programming, to existing machine learning tools, and a primer on blockchain technology.

Main topics:

- data-driven approaches (e.g. automated analysis of court decisions)
- rule-based approaches (developing small programs giving legal advice)
- decentralized ledgers (blockchains) and smart contracts
- the regulatory environment faced by Legal Tech

Prerequisites and target audience
Prior technological or statistical knowledge is **not** necessary to successfully participate. The course is open to law students at different stages in their studies, although at least three semesters of study need to have been completed. Students from other disciplines are very welcome to join.

Logistics
The seminar will take place during Spring Semester 2019 on **Thursdays from 9.00-10.30**, starting on February 21st, 2019.

Assessment
Active participation by all participants is essential to this seminar. Small tasks will be given during the semester. Participants are asked to give a presentation, and to produce written pieces of work.

The course language is English.

To register (or for any inquiries), please send an email with a brief description of your background to philip@hanke.com before January 22nd, 2019.

Participation is limited to 20 students.