

Professor Sandra Wachter is Professor of Technology and Regulation at the Oxford Internet Institute at the University of Oxford where she researches the legal and ethical implications of AI, Big Data, and robotics as well as Internet and platform regulation. Her current research focuses on profiling, inferential analytics, explainable AI, algorithmic bias, diversity, and fairness, as well as governmental surveillance, predictive policing, human rights online, and [health tech and medical law](#).

At the OII, Professor Sandra Wachter leads and coordinates the [Governance of Emerging Technologies](#) (GET) Research Programme that investigates [legal, ethical, and technical](#) aspects of AI, machine learning, and other emerging technologies.

Professor Wachter is also an affiliate and member at numerous institutions, such as [the Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University](#), World Economic Forum's Global Futures Council on Values, Ethics and Innovation, the European Commission's Expert Group on Autonomous Cars, the Law Committee of the IEEE, the World Bank's Task Force on Access to Justice and Technology, the United Kingdom Police Ethics Guidance Group, the British Standards Institution, [the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights](#) at Oxford's Law Faculty and the [Oxford Martin School](#). Professor Wachter also serves as a policy advisor for governments, companies, and NGO's around the world on regulatory and ethical questions concerning emerging technologies.

Previously, Professor Wachter was a visiting Professor at Harvard Law School. Prior to joining the OII she studied at the University of Oxford and the Law Faculty at the University of Vienna. She has also worked at the Royal Academy of Engineering and the Austrian Ministry of Health.

Professor Wachter has been the subject of numerous media profiles, including by the [Financial Times](#), [Wired](#), and [Business Insider](#). Her work has been prominently featured in several documentaries, including pieces by [Wired](#) and the BBC, and has been extensively covered by The New York Times, Reuters, Forbes, Harvard Business Review, The Guardian, BBC, The Telegraph, CNBC, CBC, Huffington Post, Science, Nature, New Scientist, FAZ, Die Zeit, Le Monde, HBO, Engadget, El Mundo, The Sunday Times, The Verge, Vice Magazine, Sueddeutsche Zeitung, and SRF.

Professor Wachter has received numerous awards, including the '[O2RB Excellence in Impact Award](#)' (2021 and 2018), the [Computer Weekly Women in UK Tech award](#) (2021), the [Privacy Law Scholar \(PLSC\) Award](#) (2019) for her paper [A Right to Reasonable Inferences: Re-Thinking Data Protection Law in the Age of Big Data and AI](#), and the CognitionX '[AI Superhero Award](#)' (2017) for her contributions in AI governance.

Her British Academy project "[AI and the Right to Reasonable Algorithmic Inferences](#)" aims to [find mechanisms](#) that provide greater protection to the right to privacy and identity,

collective and group privacy rights, and safeguards against the harms of inferential analytics and profiling.

Professor Wachter further works on the governance and ethical design of algorithms, including the development of standards to open the ‘AI Blackbox’ and to increase accountability, transparency, and [explainability](#). Her explainability tool – [Counterfactual Explanations](#) – has been implemented by major tech companies such as [Google](#), [Accenture](#), [IBM](#), and Vodafone.

Professor Wachter also works on ethical auditing methods for AI to combat bias and discrimination and to ensure fairness and diversity with a focus on [non-discrimination law](#). Her recent [work](#) has shown that the majority (13/20) of bias tests and tools do not live-up to the standards of EU non-discrimination law. In response she developed a bias test ([‘Conditional Demographic Disparity’](#) or CDD) that meets EU and UK standards. [Amazon](#) picked up her work and implemented it in their cloud services.

Professor Wachter is also interested in legal and ethical aspects of robotics (e.g., surgical, domestic and social robots) and autonomous systems (e.g., autonomous and connected cars), including liability, accountability, and privacy issues as well as international policies and regulatory responses to the social and ethical consequences of automation (e.g., future of the workforce, worker rights).

Internet policy and platform regulation as well as cyber-security issues are also at the heart of her research, where she addresses areas such as “fake news,” deepfakes, misinformation, censorship, online surveillance, intellectual property law, and human rights online.

Her previous work also looked at (bio)medical law and bioethics in areas such as interventions in the genome and genetic testing under the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Data Ethics; Big Data; AI; machine learning; algorithms; robotics; privacy; data protection-, IP- and technology law; fairness, algorithmic bias, explainability; European and international human rights; non-discrimination law; governmental (algorithmic) surveillance; emotion detection; predictive policing; Internet regulation; cyber-security; (bio)-medical law.

POSITIONS AT THE OII

- Professor of Technology and Regulation, August 2022 -
- Associate Professor, April 2019 - August 2022
- Senior Research Fellow, March 2019 - August 2022
- Research Fellow, February 2018 - March 2019

○ Postdoctoral Researcher, February 2017 - January 2018