In this seminar, Professor Dr Maxi Scherer explores the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in arbitral or judicial decision-making from a holistic point of view. She discusses the technical aspects of AI, its practical limitations, and its theoretical and methodological implications for decision-making as a whole.

While Professor Scherer takes the angle of international arbitration, she looks at examples and studies from a wide range of legal areas. Among other things, she discusses whether a blind deferential attitude towards algorithmic objectivity and infallibility is misplaced, because AI models might perpetuate existing biases. Looking at existing legal theories, she explains why the use of AI and its reliance on probabilistic inferences could constitute a significant paradigm shift for judicial decision-making.

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Professor Dr Maxi Scherer is a Professor of Law at the School of International Arbitration, Queen Mary University of London, where she holds the Chair for International Arbitration, Dispute Resolution and Energy Law. She is also a Special Counsel at Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP in London, admitted to the bar in Paris (France) and as solicitor (England and Wales).

Professor Scherer has extensive experience with arbitral practice both in civil and common law systems, with a particular focus in the energy sector. She has represented clients, provided expert opinions and sat as arbitrator in more than 100 commercial and investor-state arbitrations under a broad variety of governing laws and seats. She has been regularly ranked by Who’s Who Legal, The Legal 500 etc as a leading arbitration practitioner. She was identified among the top twenty ‘Global Elite Thought Leaders’ in 2019 and described by peers and clients as ‘a brilliant legal mind’, ‘one of the most prominent arbitration scholars in Europe’, an ‘excellent academic and arbitrator’ and ‘one of the very best in both commercial and investment arbitration proceedings’.

Professor Scherer publishes extensively in the field of international arbitration, including International Arbitration in the Energy Sector (Oxford University Press 2018). She is the General Editor of the Kluwer Journal of International Arbitration.