



## **First Round Table on Virtual Institutions and Legal Theory**

### *The confluence of legal and multi-agent systems perspectives*

**Artificial Intelligence Research Institute (IIIA-CSIC)  
UAB Institute of Law and Technology (IDT-UAB)  
Catalan Society of Philosophy (SCF-IEC)**

**Institut d'Estudis Catalans**

**Barcelona, May 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> 2005**

**Pablo Noriega (IIIA-CSIC)  
Pompeu Casanovas (IDT-UAB)**

Mirroring the way traditional institutions have been used to articulate human agent interactions, researchers in artificial intelligence have developed the notion of "virtual" or "electronic institutions". These virtual institutions are meant to regulate interactions among agents that may be humans or software programs that are in some sense rational, autonomous and independent. In order to regulate those interactions, virtual institutions come across concepts and concerns that have been part of the legal tradition, while from a legal perspective, these computational entities put many familiar concerns under a different perspective and rise new issues that may have significant content.

The meeting brings together acknowledged philosophers, sociologists and practitioners of law with researchers who are in the forefront of the multi agent systems community developments in this area, to start a dialogue on those topics of mutual interest. Participants, from each of the two fields share a common culture and are aware of their respective proposals; however, the communication with a different but affine community should focus the common aspects of their views and promote a more speculative dialogue than

the one that is frequent in each of the communities. In order to facilitate a coherent and productive dialogue, the meeting will consist of short individual presentations -to establish language, concepts and concerns- and longer group discussions around the main topics that are shared by all participants: epistemic assumptions, regulatory frameworks, pragmatics, tools and applications.

Given the richness of the themes and the backgrounds of participants, a sound reflection on the confluence of the legal and MAS perspectives is to be expected. Participants are invited to submit a position paper prior to the meeting to facilitate discussion. Participants will be welcome to extend their position papers into a larger format or produce new and possibly collaborative articles to be published after the meeting.

The meeting will consist of two full days, with seven sessions / panel discussions. Each session will consist of a set of up to four short (<15') presentations and a moderated discussion.

### **Day 1. Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> . Starting the terms for a dialogue.**

9,30am: Opening Remarks (Salvador Giner, President of the Institute of Catalan Studies; Dídac Ramírez, President of the Catalan Society of Philosophy).

10am: Introduction: A brief outlook on the fields and essential participants' backgrounds (Pablo Noriega, Pompeu Casanovas).

10am-11,30am. Panel 1. Flavors of electronic institutions. Main assumptions, concerns and achievements of the proposals that are present. (Pablo Noriega, Eugenio Oliveira, Sascha Ossowski)

Break

12-12,30pm. Panel 1: Flavors of electronic institutions. Main assumptions, concerns and achievements. (Pablo Noriega, Eugenio Oliveira, Sascha Ossowski)

13,30pm: Lunch (Antic Forn)

15pm-16,30pm. Panel 2. The legal view of normative frameworks: terminology and primary concerns (Pompeu Casanovas, Marta Poblet,

Francisco Ramos, Núria Casellas, Pep Vallbé, Elena Ferran)

16,30- 18pm. Panel 3. Theoretical, formal and technical approaches to regulations. Core problems, conflicting issues, accepted tools. (Marek Sergot, Julian Padget, Pablo Noriega)

Dinner: 21pm. (Casa Leopoldo)

## **Day 2. Friday, 20<sup>th</sup>. Getting to business.**

9am-11am. Panel 4. The intended applications of virtual institutions. (Eugenio Oliveira, Sascha Ossowski, Juan Antonio Rodriguez, Carles Sierra)

Break

11,30-13,30. Panel 5. The pragmatics of computer-enforced norms. (Fabiola López, Javier Vázquez, Wamberto Vasconcelos, Julian Padget)

13.30 Lunch (Antic Forn)

15pm-16'30pm. Panel 6. The pragmatics of ontological approaches. Iuriservice: Epistemology, legal ontologies and architecture. (Pompeu Casanovas, Núria Casellas, Marta Poblet, Pep Vallbé, Elena Ferran).

Break

17pm-18'30pm. P7. What's next (General discussion).

### *Participants*

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