



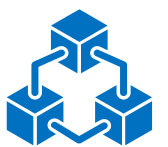
Legal Frameworks vs. Technological Realities

Supervisors

Nikolaus Forgó, Uni Wien
Barbara Prainsack, Uni Wien
Martina Lindorfer, TU Wien

The Project

- Explores how the current legal frameworks (EU AI Act, GDPR and the DSA) deal with harmful deepfakes of a gendered character
- Identifies most pressing **enforcement challenges**
- Analyses case law on the **right to freedom of expression** and aims to establish whether the regulation on harmful deepfakes would interfere with this right
- Explores what **remedies** are available to victims at the individual and collective levels



Deepfakes have been mostly studied from the legal perspective in the context of political disinformation. However, research on online content reveals that **deepfakes disproportionately target women**. The research on gendered deepfakes is largely limited to deepfake pornography. I want to focus on deepfakes targeted at women **beyond** deepfake pornography. This thesis lies at the intersection of platform liability, AI regulation and fundamental rights.

Interdisciplinary Approach

This is an interdisciplinary project bridging law, political science, and computer science. Law is not created and does not operate in a vacuum but rather exists in a specific socio-technical context.



Research Methods

The project is grounded in legal doctrinal research with insights from critical feminist legal theory, comparative legal methods, and political science approaches to explore policy interventions beyond legal responses. Computer science methods are used to measure the content on social media and platform compliance.



Project Contribution

The project will contribute to the understanding of risks and harms arising from AI-generated content in the gender context. The outcomes of the project will feed into a future policy and legislative debate on the regulation of online content and provide recommendations on how to tackle the legal enforcement challenges. Beyond policy and academic impact, the project will inform individuals affected by deepfakes on how to seek redress.