



Dr Mauricio FIGUEROA

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[Google Scholar](#) · [Academic profile](#) · [Personal website](#)

Academic appointments

2026 – present | Assistant Professor in Commercial Law; DURHAM UNIVERSITY

2025 – 2026 | Career Development Fellow; DURHAM UNIVERSITY

2026 – present | Associate, Leverhulme Centre for Algorithmic Life; DURHAM UNIVERSITY

Qualifications

PhD in Law; Newcastle University, 2025

LLM, Law and Technology; Tel Aviv University, 2018

LLB; National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), 2016

Professional recognition

Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (FHEA), Advance HE, 2026

Honours & awards

1. Finalist, Law Teacher of the Year, Northern Law Awards, 2026
2. Finalist, Early Career University Teacher, University-wide Awards, Durham University

Publications

Journal Articles

1. Quintero Godinez R & Figueroa M (2026), De minimis at scale: legal thresholds and the political visibility of programmed compliance. Management Decision, ahead-of-print, <https://doi.org/10.1108/MD-01-2026-0364>
2. Figueroa, M. (forthcoming 2026). The Limits of Artificial Companionship. Southwestern Journal of International Law. Preprint: <https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2604.23601>
3. Figueroa M. (2025). The Three Social Dimensions of Chatbot Technology. Philosophy & Technology, 38(1). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13347-024-00826-9>
4. Figueroa, M. (2024). Affection as a Service: Ghostbots and the Changing Nature of Mourning. Computer Law & Security Review, 52. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.clsr.2024.105943>
5. Figueroa, M. (2023). Big Tech Platforms, Democracy and the Law: Global Problems, Legal Perspectives and the Mexican Experience. Mexican Law Review, 15(2), 3-22. <https://doi.org/10.22201/ijj.24485306e.2023.2.17615>

Book Chapters

1. Figueroa, M. (2026). The Mutations of Machine Speech. In A. Wagner (Ed.), International Handbook of Legal Language and Communication: From Text to Semiotics. Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-87993-7_188-1
2. Figueroa, M. (in press, 2026). The Politics of Postmortem Privacy. In A. M. Phillips, E. Harbinja & C. Lombardi (Eds.), Regulating the Future: Governance of Technologies in an Era of Future Promise and Risk. Edinburgh University Press, Future Law Series. [Preprint](#)
3. Figueroa, M. (2023). [Morir en el Metaverso](#) [To Die in the Metaverse]. In FODERTICS 11.0: Derecho, entornos virtuales y tecnologías emergentes (pp. 97–108). Comares / Universidad de Salamanca. [In Spanish]

Under Review

1. Figueroa, M. Publicity Rights for the Platform Economy. Under review, Legal Studies.
2. Figueroa, M. Algorithmic Entrenchment. Under review, International Journal of Cultural Policy.
3. Gallegos, J. L. & Figueroa, M. Digital Surplus. In R. van Brakel, V. Steeves & D. Murakami Wood (Eds.), Elgar Encyclopaedia of Privacy and Surveillance. Edward Elgar. Under review with editors.
4. Figueroa, M. & Gallegos, J. L. Data Workers. In R. van Brakel, V. Steeves & D. Murakami Wood (Eds.), Elgar Encyclopaedia of Privacy and Surveillance. Edward Elgar. Under review with editors.

In Preparation

1. Figueroa, M. Recognising image rights in English Law
2. Figueroa, M. Infrastructural speech.

Commentary and Analysis

1. Figueroa, M. (2026). [The AI Race is Changing Shape](#). Computers & Law.
2. Figueroa, M. (2025). [Omelas and Neo-Tokyo as Mirrors of Endured Suffering and Progress](#). The Digital Constitutionalist.
3. Figueroa, M. (2025). [The Drawbacks of International Law in Governing Artificial Intelligence](#). Computers & Law.
4. Figueroa, M. & Gallegos, J. L. (2023). [Below the Filter: Has the Time for Employment Rights for Content Moderators Finally Arrived?](#) Computers & Law.
5. Figueroa, M. (2022). [Ghostbots, the Quest for Digital Immortality and the Law](#). JURIST, University of Pittsburgh.

Teaching experience

Durham University, 2025-present

1. Intellectual Property Law (module convenor), LLB, 2026-2027
2. Introduction to Intellectual Property Law (module convenor), LLM, 2026-2027
3. Intellectual Property Law (lectures, tutorial teaching and marking), LLB 2025-2026
4. The Business of IP (module convenor), LLB, 2025-2026



5. Introduction to Intellectual Property Law (module convenor), 2025-2026
6. Commercial Law (Sales of Goods) (marking), 2025-2026

Newcastle University

Seminar teacher: Contract Law (LLB); Global Intellectual Property Law, 2024-2025

UNAM Faculty of Law, Mexico,

Adjunct Professor (Part-time lecturer, 2017-2023)

Commercial Contracts (LLB);

Introduction to Legal Theory (LLB);

Alternative Dispute Resolution (LLM)

Guest Teaching

1. University of Buenos Aires, Argentina, 2024: eight-hour LLM module on informational privacy and generative AI, LLM in AI and Law
2. University of Salamanca and CIDE, Spain and Mexico, 2022–2023: online module on informational privacy, Summer School on Digital Law and Economics (four hours per edition)

Postgraduate supervision

PhD Supervision – Durham University

Leonie Stuessi, Copyright and AI (submission expected for Epiphany 2027)

Bingjie, Xiao, Generative AI and Copyright Infringement

PGT – Durham University

Dissertations supervised: 10 to date.

Topics: Copyright and artificial intelligence (AI); image and personality rights; comparative intellectual property law in India and the UK.

Professional service

Conference organisation

Durham Dialogues of Law, Code and Society (Convenor) 2026

Peer reviewing

1. ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (2023, 2024 and 2027)
2. Philosophy and Technology
3. Computer Law and Security Review
4. AI and Society
5. Communications of the Association for Information Systems

Hiring committees and appointment panels

Served on recruitment committees and acted as Vacancy Lead at Durham University.

Recent conference presentations

All peer-reviewed abstracts unless noted.

1. The Materialities of the Digital, Law and Society Association, ECR Workshop, San Francisco, May 2026.
2. The Mutations of Machine Speech, BILETA Annual Conference, Aberystwyth, April 2026.
3. A New Right of Publicity, UK Intellectual Property Office, Northern Cluster Network, Durham, February 2026 (invited).
4. The Hidden Brussels Effect (with J. L. Gallegos). ETUI Annual Conference on the Future of Work, Brussels, February 2026.
5. Algorithmic Entrenchment in the Creative Economy, IP & Innovation Researchers of Asia (IPIRA), Singapore University of Social Sciences, January 2026.
6. Contesting Harm and Misappropriation in Social Media through the Right of Publicity, IPIRA, Tokyo, April 2025.
7. Framing a Model for AI Collective Bargaining, (with J. L. Gallegos). ETUI Annual Conference on the Future of Work, Leuven, February 2025.
8. Risks and Harms in Postmortem Avatars beyond Doctrinal Approaches, European Privacy Law Scholars Conference, Lausanne, September 2023. Presenter and discussant.

Invited talks

1. "The Right(s) to Repair." National Institutes for the Humanities, Japan, February 2026.
2. "[The Laws of Artificial Companionship](#)." Faculty of Law, University of Oxford, May 2025.
3. Panellist, [Social AI: Policy Futures workshop](#), Centre for the Future of Intelligence, Cambridge, August 2024.
4. Address to lawmakers on AI regulation in Latin America, Inter-Parliamentary Union, June 2024.
5. Lectures on the legal implications of social chatbots, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi, and Jindal Global Law School, India, February 2024.
6. Panellist, EU AI Act Roundtable, University of Valencia, November 2023.
7. Panellist, Public Policy Forum, Society for Computers & Law, London, December 2022.

Public engagement

Podcast host and co-producer (with Simon Forrester), [Privacy & Technology Laws Around the World](#); Society for Computers & Law, 2024-present

Non-academic, professional experience

1. Deputy Director of Information Management; National Council of Science and Technology, Federal Government of Mexico, 2019–2021
2. Director of IT Policy and Procurement; Government of Mexico City, 2018–2019
3. Judicial Clerk to the Chief Judge; Mexico City Electoral Tribunal, 2015–2017

Professional memberships

1. Society of Legal Scholars (SLS), 2025-present

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2. Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), 2023-present
3. The Alan Turing Institute, [Turing Connections](#), 2023-present
4. Society for Computers & Law, 2022-present

Languages

English · Spanish · French