

script

Autonomous systems and the law -
an Anglo-Saxon perspective "



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Regulating Robots

- UK perspective on law and robotics
- There isn't one
- Thank you for your attention!
- (Pub now?)



More seriously though

- Pierre Legrand “ Legal mentality”
- Distrust of “top down”, concept driven legal solutions
- Instead, find a “good fit” to solutions that have worked well in the past



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Regulating Robots Problem

- How to address something that is categorically new?



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Regulating Robots

1) Why

- They learn
- They display signs of autonomous behavior
- They can make decisions
- They are therefore not totally predictable



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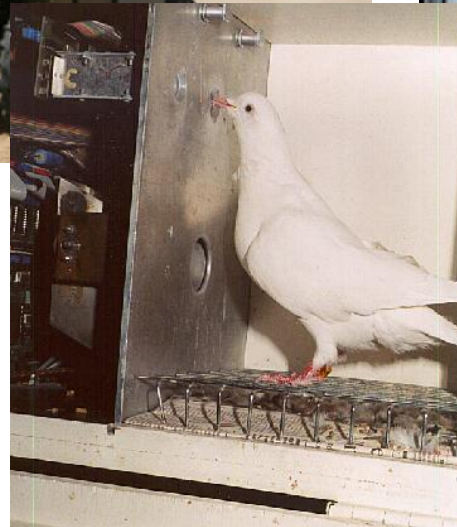
Regulating Robots



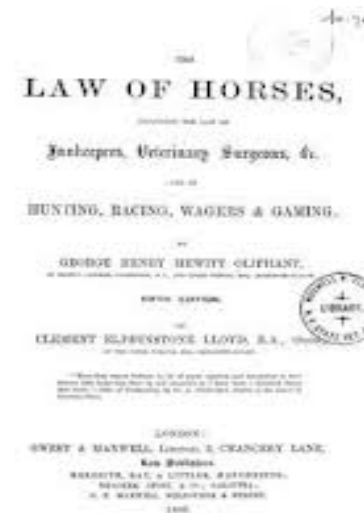
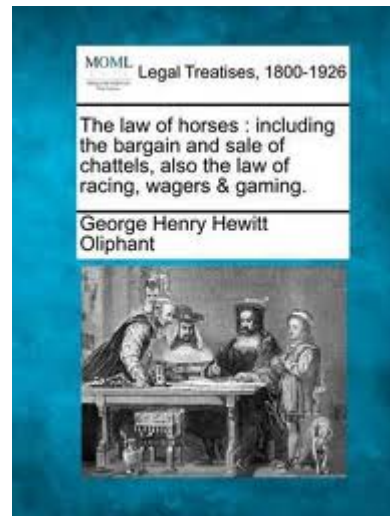
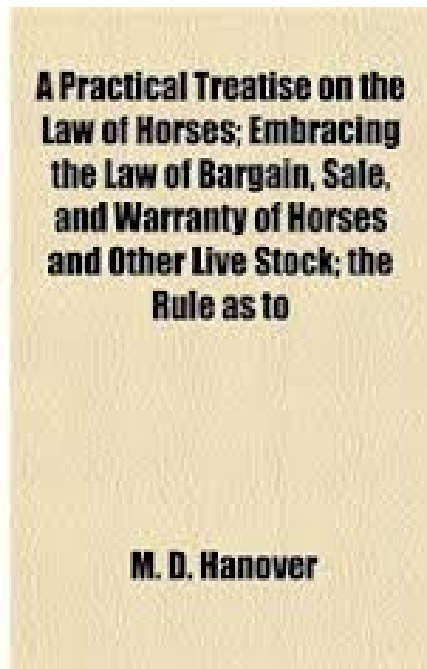
Regulating non-human, autonomous decision makers - really a new problem?



Regulating Robots



Revisiting the Victorians



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Problems II

- Relies on “shared understanding”
- “reasonable”, “equitable”, “man on the street test” etc
- But what do we do if there aren't yet any established practices?



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Soft law, self-regulation, ethical debate

- Robots are multi-use tools. Robots should not be designed solely or primarily to kill or harm humans, except in the interests of national security
- Humans, not robots, are responsible agents. Robots should be designed & operated as far as is practicable to comply with existing laws and fundamental rights & freedoms, including privacy.
- Robots are products. They should be designed using processes which assure their safety and security.
- Robots are manufactured artefacts. They should not be designed in a deceptive way to exploit vulnerable users; instead their machine nature should be transparent.
- The person with legal responsibility for a robot should be attributed. "



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Revisiting offline and online equivalence

- “the use of autonomous agents should not permit the controller of the artefact to avoid liability he would have incurred had he acted himself or though a human”



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Procedural aspects

- Robots should provide forensically sound records of their “decision making progress”, ideally verbalising this as an explanation for action.



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Soft law, self-regulation, ethical debate

- Industry standards with limited effect to exclude liability
- Strict liability
- Efficiently priced insurance markets
- Possibly mandatory insurance



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Robots: anything they do, animals can do better?

The image shows a screenshot of the IKEA United Kingdom website. The main navigation bar includes 'All products', 'new', 'Living room', 'Bedroom', 'Kitchen', and 'Children's IKEA'. The 'BEDS & MATTRESSES' section is active, with a sidebar listing categories like 'Beds', 'Mattresses', and 'Sofa-beds'. A central image shows a bedroom with a white bed frame and a nightstand. Below this, there are sections for 'Quilts & pillows' and 'Don't forget!' with a thumbs-up icon and a 'Go!' button.

Overlaid on the right side of the website is a 'IKEA Help Centre' window. It features a virtual assistant character, a blonde woman in a yellow IKEA polo shirt. The text in the window reads: 'You just said : bed', 'Please have a look at the Bedroom category on the page that I am opening for you now.', and a 'Turn sound on' checkbox with a 'Go' button. The window also includes a 'Close' button and a copyright notice: '© Inter IKEA Systems B.V. 1999 - 2008'.



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Regulating Robot speech: precedents?



Rights, rank, relation?

- Some tasks require a special status, e.g. An officer giving orders or a policeman asking for ID
 - This may require extending the law, where appropriate, to machines, giving them de facto rank
 - Emotional attachment to robots
- Can create interests worth protecting



Polly asks: any questions?

