Lex-Luthor & Artificial Advice

European Research Council (ERC) Research Project

and Companion Project on AI and Digital-Market Regulation

PI: Dr. Amit Zac, Faculty of Law, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Call for Applications: 2–3 Post-Doctoral and 2–3 Doctoral Fellows

2026 and 2027

Deadline for Applications: 15 October 2026

Lex-Luthor, a research project funded by a European Research Council Starting Grant (ERC StG), and **Artificial Advice**, a complementary research project, are directed by Dr. Amit Zac (Faculty of Law, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem) and are looking for:

- **2–3 post-doctoral fellows** with a strong background in computer science, data science, machine learning, statistics, computational social science, or a closely related field.
- **2–3 PhD students** (including aspiring PhD candidates) from computational fields, law, or economics. Candidates without computational training who are eager to learn these methods are explicitly encouraged to apply.

About Lex-Luthor – the ERC project

Digital-market regulation faces a persistent enforcement gap. Firms operate at a scale, speed, and level of technical sophistication that make traditional compliance review inadequate. Lex-Luthor develops a computational approach to detecting non-compliance with privacy, consumer, and competition law and to understanding why existing deterrence mechanisms fail in digital markets.

The project will build automated web-measurement and text-analysis tools, link compliance evidence to firm-level data, and compare what firms say in policies, terms, and consent interfaces with what their systems actually do. It combines machine learning, NLP and LLM methods, browser automation, large-scale data collection, experiments, causal inference, and legal-economic analysis to develop new approaches to scalable enforcement.

About Artificial Advice

Conversational AI systems are becoming central information intermediaries. Through dialogue, framing, and selective emphasis, they may shape users' preferences, attention, and choices. When a platform controls both the conversational interface and the underlying marketplace, such systems may improve matching but may also steer users toward more expensive, affiliated, or platform-owned options.

Artificial Advice combines incentivized behavioural experiments with automated audits of live conversational systems. It develops reusable tools to automate interactions, log multi-turn conversations, and detect self-preferencing, manipulation, reduced diversity, and persona-specific steering.

About the positions:

1. We are seeking 2–3 Postdoctoral Fellows (100% Full-Time, one year with an option for extension) with a strong background in computational or data-intensive research.

The ideal candidates should have:

- A PhD, or expected PhD by the starting date, in computer science, data science, machine learning, statistics, information systems, computational social science, economics, or a related field. Candidates from law or another social science are welcome if they have a strong computational research record.
- Proven expertise in one or more of the following: machine learning; NLP or LLM evaluation; web measurement; browser automation; recommender systems; computational experiments; causal inference; or large-scale statistical analysis.
- Strong programming skills, preferably in Python and/or R, and experience building reliable, documented, and reproducible research pipelines.
- Ability to design and conduct rigorous independent research and to collaborate across computer science, law, economics, and behavioural research.
- Keen interest in conversational AI, digital platforms, privacy, consumer protection, competition, or AI governance. Prior legal training is not required.

2. We are also looking for 2–3 PhD students (100% Full-Time).

The ideal candidates should have:

- A master's degree, or an equivalent strong background, in computer science, data science, statistics, information systems, computational social science, economics, law, or a related field. Candidates from law and economics who want to learn computational methods are explicitly welcome.
- Proficiency in Python and/or R, or strong motivation and aptitude to develop these skills. Prior programming and data-analysis experience is an advantage, but is not required for applicants from law or economics.
- Interest in developing computational methods for studying conversational AI, digital platforms, algorithmic choice architecture, and compliance with digital regulation.
- Ability and motivation to conduct rigorous research, learn across disciplines, and contribute to shared code, data, experiments, and publications.

What we offer:

- The opportunity to help establish a new **Lab for Computational Legal Studies** at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, in Jerusalem, and join a large interdisciplinary group conducting research together.
- Fully funded positions backed by a substantial budget for ambitious computational research.
- Connections with leading labs in the United States and European Union, and joint supervision by two researchers at excellent academic institutions.

General Requirements for all candidates:

- Strong research, analytical, and problem-solving skills, together with responsibility, conscientiousness, and excellent organizational and time-management skills.
- Ability to work effectively both independently and as part of an interdisciplinary team, with clear written and spoken English across disciplines.
- Commitment to conducting high-quality, ethical, and reproducible research and contributing to the projects' goals.

Application information:

- Fellowship starting date: Flexible.
- Location: The lab will be based at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Some flexibility regarding the location of work may be possible, subject to project needs, institutional requirements, and agreement with the supervisors.
- Application Deadline: 15 October 2026.

All applications should be submitted by email to `researchaillms@gmail.com`; and should include the following documents **in one PDF, in this order:**

1. **Cover letter** describing your interest in the projects; the position you apply for; whether you are most interested in Lex-Luthor, Artificial Advice, or both; relevant research and computational experience; and other qualifications.
2. **Detailed CV** (including a list of publications, if any).
3. For post-doc candidates: **verification that the candidate was awarded a PhD degree in the last five years** (noting the date it was awarded), or that by the time they wish to begin their fellowship they will complete all PhD requirements and submit their dissertation.
4. **A representative academic writing sample** (article, research paper, dissertation chapter, or equivalent technical paper).
5. **A brief description of relevant computational work**, with links to a code or data portfolio (for example, GitHub or reproducibility materials), if available.
6. **The names and email addresses of two potential academic referees**. Referees may be contacted at a later stage; recommendation letters are not required at the time of application.

Following initial screening, relevant candidates may be asked to submit a short research proposal and/or complete a short technical task directly related to the goals and methods of the projects.

Questions should be emailed to Dr. Amit Zac at `Amit.Zac@mail.huji.ac.il`.