

School of Law

The legal dimensions of using data science for health discovery and innovation in Africa

This research project will investigate five critical themes over a three-year period: (1) modes of informed consent to the use of data; (2) the nature and content of individual and community rights in genomic data; (3) the use of persons' geospatial data for public health surveillance; (4) the cross-border sharing of data; and (5) the use of data as basis for Artificial Intelligence (AI).

An important cross-cutting theme and goal of the project is the decolonization and Africanization of extant law related to the use of data in health research. The project will critically engage with the extant law of the twelve jurisdictions from the perspective of current trends in African legal philosophy. The expected outcomes are recommendations for legal innovation and inter-jurisdiction harmonization.

Scholarships

We are recruiting postdoctoral and doctoral research fellows to work fulltime on this project. Scholarships range between R180 000 to R270 000 per year. Candidates with non-law master's and/or doctoral degrees are welcome to apply, provided that they have an LLB. Residence in KwaZulu-Natal is not required.

Interested candidates are invited to email healthlaw@ukzn.ac.za with (1) a letter of motivation, (2) an academic record, and (3) the contact details of two references. The closing date for applications is 15 October 2021.