



Online profiling at the intersection of  
Laws, Computer Science, and Sociology

2019-2020

### From PROFILE to PROFILE-INT

#### Cominlabs Profile project (2016-2018):

- **Goal:** Analyzing and mitigating the risks of online profiling: building a global perspective at the intersection of law, computer science and sociology
- **Theme 1: the privacy paradox (social science and computer science).** Most people care about their privacy but agree to give private data against online services.
- **Theme 2: profiling regulation (laws and computer science).** the computer and legal control instruments enabling users to understand what the operator does with their data.

#### Cominlabs International Extension PROFILE-INT (2019-2020):

- **Goal:** Focus on privacy and algorithmic fairness in high-stake decision systems (applications to justice and education).
- **Methodology:** Grounded in real-life use cases, rigorous privacy and fairness models, experimental approach.

### Resources

- **Partners:** UR1 (France) and UQAM (Canada).
- **Cominlabs funding:** 75K€ (1 year PhD student, laptop, travels, internships).
- **Additional funding:** from UQAM (3+ years PhD student) and UR1 (travels).

### Publications

[P1] Tristan Allard, Louis Béziaud, and Sébastien Gambs. Online publication of court records: circumventing the privacy-transparency trade-off. In Workshop on Law & Machine Learning, 2020.

[P2] Tristan Allard, Louis Béziaud, and Sébastien Gambs. Publication of court records: circumventing the privacy-transparency trade-off. In AI Approaches to the Complexity of Legal Systems XI-XII, pages 298–312. Springer, 2020.

[P3] Tristan Allard, Louis Béziaud, and Sébastien Gambs. Simulating socioeconomic-based affirmative action. Accepted for publication in ReScience, 2022.

### Invited talks and "Dissemination"

[I1] Louis Béziaud. Publication of court records: circumventing the privacy-transparency trade-off, Webinar on the use of AI in the justice field: Anonymisation and pseudonymisation of judicial decisions, European Commission, 2021.

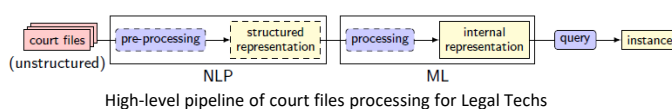
[I2] Tristan Allard, Sébastien Gambs, and Louis Béziaud. La confidentialité différentielle, garante de l'anonymat. Hors-série Pour la Science, n°112, 2021.

[I3] Louis Béziaud. La recherche montre en main, "Intelligence artificielle : par-delà le bien et le mal ?", La Méthode scientifique, 2022.

### Axis 1.1: Privacy-Preserving Data Publishing of Court Decision

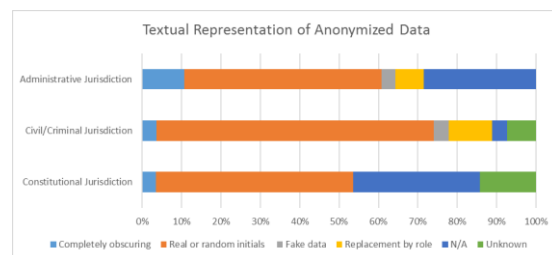
#### Opening court decisions :

- **Historically:** for transparency (trust, bias inspection, ...) and accessibility (case law).
- **Today's novelty:** from paper-based and in-person court hearings to electronic records to allow **massive, computerized, processing** (Legaltechs!).
- **A current trend and a change in scale** (e.g., in France "Arrêté du 28 avril 2021": orders of magnitude more decisions published each year, full scale in 2025)

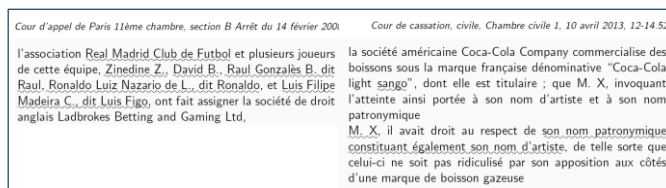


**Preserving privacy:** a mismatch between real world practices and modern approaches

- **Real-world practices:** redaction (common, complex, unsecure)



From: Opijnen, Marc, et al. "On-Line Publication of Court Decisions in the EU : Report of the Policy Group of the Project 'Building on the European Case Law Ident\_x000c\_er.'" (2017).



Real-life examples of redaction.

- **Modern privacy approaches :** sound privacy models and algorithms (e.g., differential privacy)

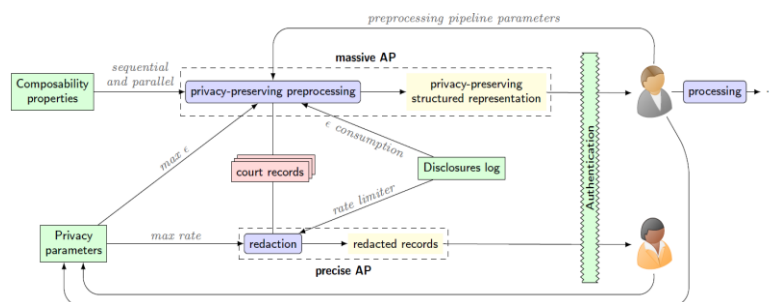
Definition 2. A randomized function  $K$  gives  $\epsilon$ -differential privacy if for all data sets  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  differing on at most one element, and all  $S \subseteq \text{Range}(K)$ ,

$$\Pr[K(D_1) \in S] \leq \exp(\epsilon) \times \Pr[K(D_2) \in S] \quad (1)$$

From: Cynthia Dwork. Differential Privacy. ICALP (2) 2006: 1-12.

⇒ **The real-life approach is necessary** for small scale use cases (e.g., case law) while **the modern approach is sufficient for large scale accesses** (e.g., analytics, LegalTech).

**Our proposal [P1, P2, I1] :** a multi-modal publication architecture.

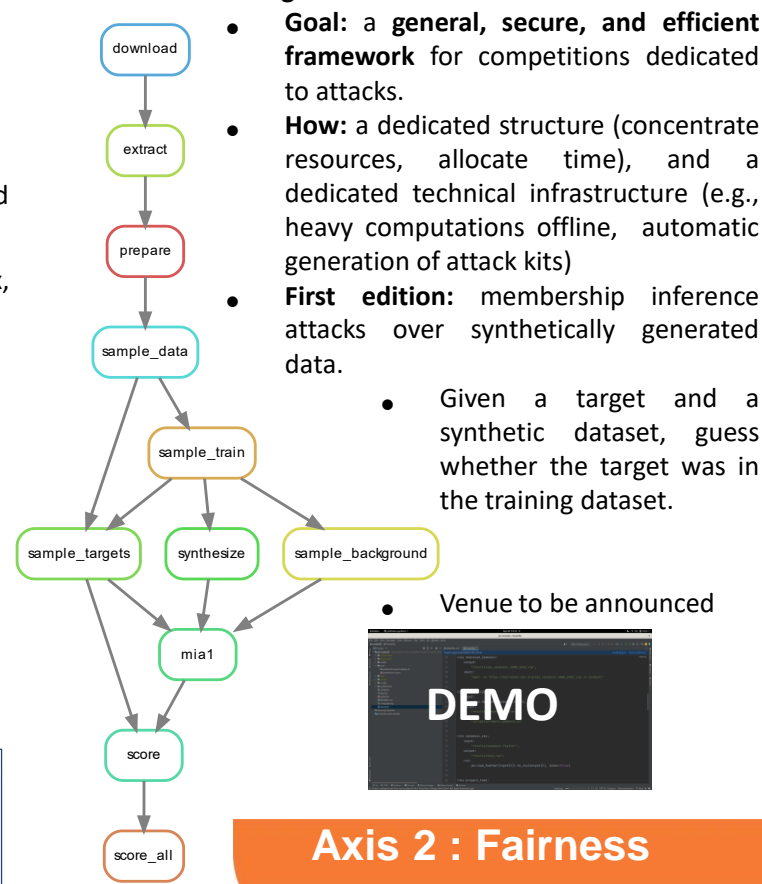


### Axis 1.2: Challenging Privacy-Preserving Data Publishing Schemes

#### Need for competitions dedicated to attacks over PPD schemes:

- **Strong competitions exist on the defense side** (e.g., 2018 Nist Differential Privacy Challenge): stimulate research, open source implementations.
- **Weaknesses on the attack side** (e.g., often a neglected phase of existing competitions).

#### The Snake challenges:



- **Goal:** a general, secure, and efficient framework for competitions dedicated to attacks.
- **How:** a dedicated structure (concentrate resources, allocate time), and a dedicated technical infrastructure (e.g., heavy computations offline, automatic generation of attack kits)
- **First edition:** membership inference attacks over synthetically generated data.

- Venue to be announced

### Axis 2 : Fairness

#### Context:

- Machine learning models (e.g., classifiers) are increasingly used in **high-stake decisions** (e.g., justice, college enrollment).
- Real-life cases have shown that models might treat individuals unfairly (e.g., COMPAS).
- Fairness metrics aim at defining formally the notion of fairness. But they are numerous, contradicting, and ignore the long term.

#### Our ongoing work:

- **Goal:** Study systems of fairness metrics on the long run.
- **Challenges:** Data is scarce, performing real-life experiments is infeasible, systems are complex.
- **Current state:** students-colleges simulator implemented [P3], formalization ongoing (e.g., attribute-shift effect, red flag indicator), implementation of metrics ongoing.

