Patent documents as sources and data: Quantitative and qualitative methodologies

Workshop, 28-29 June 2023, EPFL

The workshop is part of the research project "The Internationalization of Patent Systems: From Patent Cultures to Global Intellectual Property", funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation. – Team members: Jérôme Baudry, Nicolas Chachereau, Joël Praz.



Patents, more precisely patent applications and specifications, contain valuable information and can be used as sources and data that shed light on various phenomena related to technology and innovation. However, these patent documents are indeed documents, in the sense that they are pieces of paper or digital files, structured, written and handled according to the needs and preferences of administrations, lawyers, engineers and other actors of patent systems. Remembering this also helps in making sense of these sources and data. But how is one to combine such close attention paid to the documents themselves with their sheer number that makes quantitative and computational methods almost unavoidable? How to address the intricacies of documents that reflect so many phenomena—technological, economic, legal, political, bureaucratic or even moral concerns?

To discuss such questions, the workshop aims at creating a space to bring various research strands studying patent documents into a mutually beneficial methodological dialogue.

Thursday 29 June 2023

14.30 – 14.45	Welcome + Introduction Jérôme Baudry (EPFL), Nicolas Chachereau (EPFL)
14.45 – 15.30	'This Public Relations Work is Not Fluff': Patents as Persuasion Eva Hemmungs Wirtén (Linköping University)
15.30 – 16.15	Traces of responsibility: Digital analysis of safety discourses and the language of a million patents Nicolas Chachereau, Prakhar Gupta, Bhargav Srinisava Desikan (EPFL)
16.15 – 16.45	Coffee break
16.45 – 17.30	Drawings in court: their use in patent cases and their impact on the creation of case law (1780-1850) Yohann Guffroy (EPFL)
19.00	Dinner
Friday 30 June 2023	
9.00 – 9.45	Speculatively Sewing Patent Archives: researching clothing inventions as sources, data and wearable technologies Kat Jungnickel (Goldsmiths University of London)
	inventions as sources, data and wearable technologies
9.45 – 10.30	inventions as sources, data and wearable technologies Kat Jungnickel (Goldsmiths University of London) Predicting patent commercialization
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