

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Genetics, Robotics, Law, Punishment

Monday 30 September 2013 h 8.45-18.00 (PADOVA)

Tuesday 1 October 2013 h 9.00-18.00 (TREVISO)

Lorenzo Picotti - ABSTRACT

Criminal Law responses to computer crimes in view of the developments of technology and its social diffusion

One of the most influential effects of computerisation in everyday life is the expanding use of social networks (e.g. *Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Google+* etc., just to cite some of the most famous ones). The “networks of social communications” are accessible to all, also under false identity or with names, nicknames or fictional features, other than from any place and in any moment, since this is consented by portable devices (tablets and smart-phones in particular), which everybody, included the youngest and even minors in pre-school age, increasingly frequently possess.

If the participation to such networks – as, more generally, the use of internet – offers chances of communication and immediate access to an enormous quantity and variety of information and contents, constantly updated, in times and measures not even imaginable a few years ago, facilitating interpersonal, professional, economical and political exchanges and social and cultural development as a whole, the capillary penetration of computer means (and especially social networks) brings also many risks, as it is emblematically demonstrated by the most notorious scandals on net espionage which came to light in the last times or some tragic news concerning so-called *cyberbullying*.

Here we will synthetically expose the “penal risks”, that is the risks of being victim, of the one hand, and of committing, on the other hand, crimes through the Internet and in particular through the use of social networks, given that users (also minors) may, in turn, be “authors” or “victims” of crimes realised *in* the Internet or *through* the Internet, with the awareness that criminal law may not offer sufficient responses to contrast them, but it cannot give up its essential function of social defence, on the one hand, and guarantee, on the other hand, which characterise it in a democratic society.