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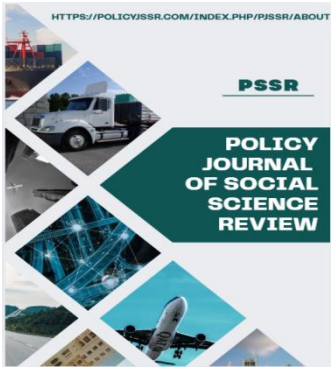

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NAVIGATING THE ALGORITHMIC WITNESS: AI AND CASE EVIDENCE CHALLENGES FOR LAW PRACTITIONERS IN THE UAE

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ABSTRACT

This research study investigates the use of AI-based evidence in the UAE's legal system, prompted by ambitious efforts such as the National AI Strategy 2031 and the "Court of the Future." It asks if the built-in complexity and uniqueness of AI-generated evidence can produce an "accountability gap" that at first compromises fundamental legal standards, such as having the right to confront witnesses, in a way similar to a judicial shutdown. The primary goal is to understand the unique, practical challenges that UAE attorneys, judicial officials, and prosecutors face, as well as to examine the system's adaptive reaction. A mixed-methods study strategy was used, combining a detailed theoretical examination of UAE central and free-zones laws with in-depth qualitative interviews with legal professionals who have direct experience with algorithmic evidence. The findings indicate three crises: an evident complexity caused by AI's "black box" character, a dual visibility and cultural verification crisis including trade secret disagreements and discrimination in foreign-trained systems, and a systemic and lack of expertise . The paper identifies new changes, such as legal "conditional admissibility" concepts and procedural advances in highly specialised courts like the DIFC's Digital Economy Court. The UAE's rapid technological advancement has led to context-based suppression of normal legal safeguards. This "functional legal gap" can be rectified. The report believes that the country's technological objectives must be matched by a corresponding evolution in procedural legislation, professional

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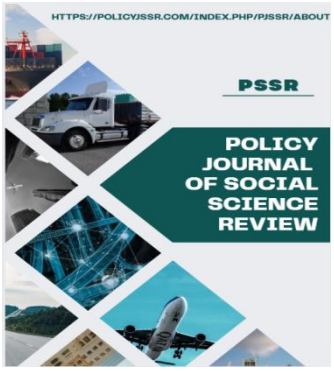

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education, and governance structures. Proposals include establishing Legal Practice Regulations on AI Evidence, requiring "AI Litigation Literacy" certification, and making legal changes to ensure that algorithmic evidence upholds justice, transparency, and human dignity.Key Words: UAE Law, Digital Evidence, Artificial Intelligence, Algorithmic Bias, Legal Technology, Legal Ethics, Judicial Reform, DIFC's courts, Federal Law No. 34 of 2021, Machine Learning Model, Deepfake.

INTRODUCTION

Driven by strategic initiatives such as the National AI Strategy 2031 and the "Court of the Future," the UAE's legal system has quickly adopted artificial intelligence, resulting in a dramatic shift in evidence practice. This top-down push for technological innovation has introduced the "algorithmic witness" to courtrooms, which includes AI-generated analysis, prediction tools, and synthetic media. This trend exposes a critical and growing disagreement: the UAE's ambitious digital transformation aim is moving at a rate that exceeds the flexibility of its fundamental legal structures and experts, resulting in hitherto new analytical capabilities. The major difficulty is that there is a legal and philosophical divide. Federal Act No. 10 of 1992, the country's basic evidence statute, and its procedural rules were established for an earlier digital era with physical records and human witnesses. Current regulations, such as Federal Decree-Law No. 34 of 2021 on Detecting False Information and Cybercrimes and Federal Decree-Law No. 45 of 2021 on the Protection of Personal Data, do not address the challenges posed by autonomous, opaque algorithmic systems. Important problems remain unanswered, including how a court may verify the outcomes of a self-training neural network. Who can testify as an expert in the case of an exclusive "black box" algorithm? When a system's decision-making algorithm is classified as an industry secret, how can a judge assess its "accuracy"? Most crucially, how do the binary legal criteria of proof relate to a predicted AI conclusion, such as a "92.7% confidence" guilty verdict?

This judicial and theoretical divide creates major practical issues for legal practitioners, leaving them without the procedural abilities required to effectively handle, dispute, or authenticate AI data. A defence attorney's experience in a landmark Abu Dhabi criminal case vividly illustrates this situation: "We were unable to provide a straightforward response when the prosecution demanded, (How did the AI reach this conclusion?) There is no strategy for this in the current rules of evidence" (Respondent 1, 2025). This remark emphasises the key study issue: the UAE

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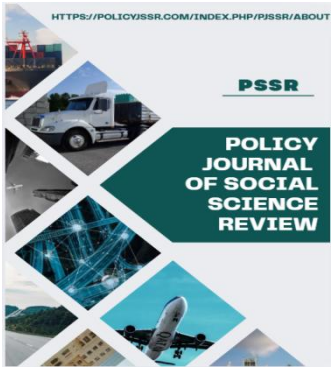

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judicial system currently lacks particular procedures to manage the "algorithmic witness," risking the loss of fundamental notions such as the right to a fair trial and the presumption of innocence.

This study examines the particular, real-world challenges that arise from this conflict between legislative adaptation and technological innovation. It looks at the "reality gap" in court processes caused by the fundamental anonymity and novelty of AI evidence, the unsolved tensions between intellectual property rights and the right to a fair trial, and the competence gaps in the legal profession. The paper attempts to map this unexplored terrain by basing its analysis on the first-hand experiences of UAE practitioners and the country's distinct dual jurisdiction. It is important because it goes beyond theoretical debate to offer an empirical basis for creating context-specific solutions, such as professional training, procedural innovation, and regulatory reform, that can guarantee the UAE's "Court of the Future" is founded on both procedural justice and technological prowess.

Research Objectives:

1. To determine and evaluate the main procedural and practical issues that UAE lawyers face when handling AI-generated evidence in the national and free-zone courts.
2. To identify significant legislative and procedural deficiencies and critically assess how well the current regulatory and legal structure in the United Arab Emirates satisfies the unique requirements of AI evidence.
3. To provide a methodical, practical framework of suggestions for lawyers, judges, and legislators to successfully and morally handle the issues posed by AI evidence.

Research Questions:

These questions clearly support the objectives that are stated above

1. What are the biggest obstacles that UAE attorneys must overcome in order to verify, contest, and present AI evidence in the legal system (LAW)?
2. Where do practitioners think there are the biggest differences between the facts of algorithmic proof and the current UAE evidence laws?
3. What particular action, regulations, training, and procedure are most urgently required to create a capable and equitable system for managing AI evidence in the United Arab Emirates?

LITERATURE REVIEW

AI and Legal Evidence: International Regulatory Perspectives

Different legal philosophies for AI in legal circumstances have been developed by the international community, resulting in a complex set of guidelines and standards that influence international practice and global lawsuits. The European Union has established a thorough precautionary technique by classifying legal artificial intelligence systems as "at high risk" and implementing strict criteria for authenticity, human monitoring, and compliance review (European

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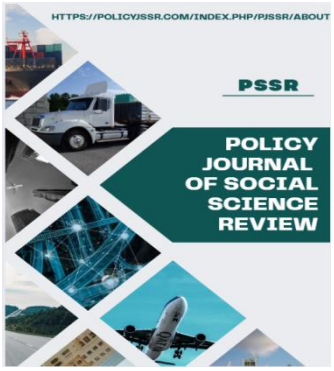

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Commission, no date). This rights-based approach prioritizes the protection of fundamental rights and uses ex-ante laws to prevent harm. Because of the "Brussels Effect," which renders EU norms de facto global standards, these policies are having an increasing impact on global legal practice, including cases involving parties from the United Arab Emirates.

The UK, on the other hand, recommends an innovation-first strategy that prioritizes adapting existing legal principles over inventing entirely new AI-specific legislation (Gov.uk , no date c). British courts have demonstrated flexibility in admitting AI-generated evidence by applying and altering traditional rules for expert testimony and dependability. This model presupposes a high level of technological literacy in the legal sector and places a strong emphasis on legal judgement and competitive testing. Singapore has developed a one-of-a-kind policy that prioritises procedural safeguards, complete with court-appointed professional consultants and specialized processes for technological disputes. This model is particularly important to UAE free zones.

Two significant ethical frameworks created by global groups are the OECD Policies on Artificial Intelligence and UNESCO's Recommendations on the Ethics of AI (OECD, no date; Unesco, no date b). These instruments represent a rising moral agreement on accountability, openness, fairness, and human inspection, even if they are not legally binding. They offer standards by which national laws, particularly those of nations like the United Arab Emirates that have high aspirations for digital transformation, are increasingly assessed.

The Technical and Ethical Challenges of Algorithmic Evidence

The technological architecture of current artificial intelligence systems poses significant problems to legal evidence frameworks. The "black box" dilemma, which occurs when powerful machine learning algorithms generate outputs using techniques that are unavailable to humans, has presented a theoretical threat to legal systems (Yu and Alì, 2019). Conventional evidence evaluation is based on logical structure, technological accessibility, and source authority, which are not appropriate for algorithmic outputs that are difficult to grasp and understand. This problem is particularly evident in hybrid or inquisitorial regimes, such as the UAE's, where courts' active investigative responsibilities are jeopardised by unintelligible algorithmic reasoning.

Algorithmic bias arises when systems rely on pre-existing data, which may include social preconceptions. Academics have highlighted how risk identification approaches can systematically influence excluded groups due to unintentional biases introduced by participants during training data analysis (Angwin et al., 2016). In the UAE, this hazard emerges in two ways: heightened local bias in algorithms trained on current socioeconomic data, and built-in foreign bias in systems trained mostly on

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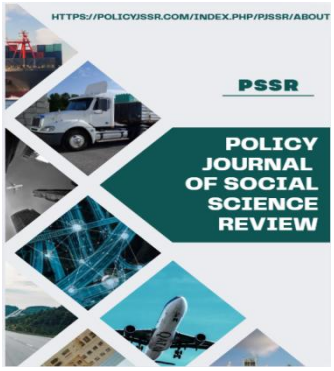

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Western datasets with ethical and legal norms. Despite the pretense of technical impartiality, the ensuing "automation of inequality" threatens to formalise prejudice (Završnik, 2021).

With AI evidence, authenticity and provenance verification become more complex. Traditional chain-of-custody approaches fail to cope with algorithmic evidence, which includes model updates, data from training connections, pre-processing changes, and vulnerability to adversary deceit (Quezada-Tavárez, Vogiatzoglou and Royer, 2021). Confusion in conventional evidence categories derives from the increasingly fuzzy line between employing AI as an investigative tool and submitting its results as evidence from individuals. These concerns are worsened by the fact that suppliers routinely conceal algorithms as industrial secrets, resulting in conflicts between the right to a fair trial and the protection of intellectual property that existing UAE legislation does not sufficiently address.

Additional complications include the neural-network gap between AI's rate-based results and law's categorical decisions, gaps in resources that result in unequal access to AI legal features, and safeguarding issues when technological advances cause today's AI systems ineffective within years (Gaur and Sheth, 2024; Munz, Hennick and Stewart, 2023). Collectively, these issues necessitate not merely adaptation, but a complete rethinking of evidence principles and procedures.

Legal Studies and New Practices Relevant to the United Arab Emirates

According to a recent research focussing on the laws and regulations of the United Arab Emirates, digital evidence issues have received more scholarly attention (AWS Legal Group, 2025). Critical problems in the handling of algorithmic outputs were revealed during an examination of Federal Law No. 10 of 1992 on Evidence, namely in relation to expert qualifications and verification processes. Research on digital proof in UAE courts recommends changes to allow the use of distributed ledger technology while sticking to traditional proof requirements. In the digital age, Islamic juridical beliefs concerning evidence (bayyinah) are being re-examined, with experts investigating how traditional conceptions may affect modern difficulties.

In the context of the United Arab Emirates, what legal scholars call "legal-cultural calibration" , the necessity that imported technology match local legal practices and cultural norms is essential. According to research, foreign-trained AI systems frequently misinterpret regional business practices, communication preferences, and behavioural patterns, leading to systemic misclassification. This cultural mismatch has the potential to result in "algorithmic colonialism," as one researcher puts it, when Western-developed technology imposes foreign normative frameworks on local legal processes (Okolo, Aruleba and Obaido, 2023).

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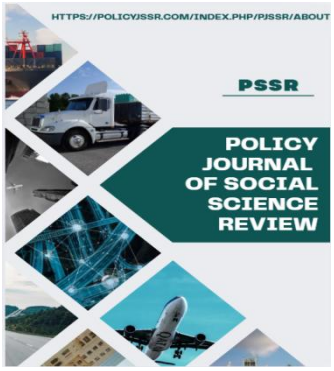

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As jurisdictional labs, the DIFC and ADGM free zones develop creative answers to technical problems. The DIFC Data Protection Law's automated decision-making provisions mark the region's first recognition of "algorithmic fair process" rights (Baker McKenzie, no date). The DIFC Courts' Digital Economy Court has introduced several procedural innovations, including mandatory technological records, overlapping expert evidence (sometimes known as "hot-tubbing"), and specific case management methods (Difccourts.ae, no date e). These developments provide excellent models for potential government adaptations (Ishnaneh, 2025).

A review of UAE legal viewpoints reveals a constrained approach to the introduction of AI (Chambers, 2025; Lecocq and Omer, 2023). Judges are hesitant to rely on algorithmic outcomes for meaningful decisions, despite their eagerness to employ AI for administrative tasks and early evidence analysis (BSA Law, 2025). The lack of defined validation procedures, explainability criteria, and dependability verification are the main causes for concern. This suggests that legal specialists in charge of implementation proceed slowly, whilst political leaders accelerate the adoption of new technology (Koktova, 2025; Rasheed, 2025).

Theoretical Frameworks to Understand Algorithmic Evidence Challenges

This study highlights the unique position of the UAE by placing AI evidence references within conflicting theoretical frameworks. The idea of algorithmic governance looks at how computer technologies AI alter political power, accountability, and decision-making (Mniestri and Randerath, 2023). This shows up in legal contexts as governmental technologies that alter professional responsibilities and conventional evidentiary procedures. The UAE's quick embrace of AI is an example of what academics refer to as "instrumentarian power," in which governing systems incorporate behavioral prediction and change via data analytics.

Legal epistemology provides crucial insights into how evidentiary systems establish truth and knowledge (Krištofík, 2024). Traditional legal evidence relies on narrative coherence and source reliability human-centric criteria ill-suited to algorithmic outputs. The "black box" problem represents an epistemological crisis where legal systems cannot trace decisions to human reasoning processes. This creates what theorists describe as an "accountability gap" between algorithmic outputs and legal proof standards (Yu and Ali, 2019).

The concept of "socio-technical systems" highlights how technological innovations interact with social, institutional, and cultural contexts. The UAE's experience demonstrates how imported technologies encounter local legal traditions, professional practices, and cultural norms, generating unique adaptation patterns. This theoretical perspective helps explain why technological solutions developed in

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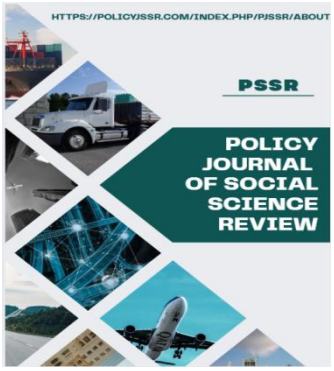

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one jurisdiction require significant recalibration when deployed elsewhere (AUE, 2023).

These theoretical frameworks collectively illuminate the UAE's position as what might be termed an "algorithmic legalism" jurisdiction attempting to maintain traditional legal forms while adopting radically new technological means. This creates distinctive tensions and opportunities that form the core focus of this investigation.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design and Philosophical Foundations

This study is about understanding how lawyers deal with the problems of using intelligence evidence. It looks at the experiences of practitioners who work with this kind of evidence. The study uses a way of looking at things called phenomenology to see what these lawyers go through.

The study has two parts: one part looks at the laws of the UAE and how they are written and the other part talks to legal professionals to see what they think. This way the study can look at both the rules. How they are actually used in real life. It also looks at how lawyers interpret these rules and what they think are the limitations of using intelligence evidence. The study of practitioners and artificial intelligence evidence is important to understand how lawyers navigate artificial intelligence evidence challenges.

The research is based on the idea that people create their understanding of the world around them. This includes how lawyers work and what they think evidence means. The way people think about these things is shaped by what they experience, who they talk to and how they understand things. This way of thinking is especially useful for looking at things like artificial intelligence evidence. Artificial intelligence evidence is something that lawyers are still figuring out and how they think about it is personal and depends on their situation. Lawyers are active. Changing how they work with artificial intelligence evidence as they use it more. The research on intelligence evidence is really about understanding how lawyers think about artificial intelligence evidence and how they are adapting to it. The study seeks not objective truth about AI evidence but rather nuanced understanding of how legal professionals experience, interpret, and respond to these challenges within the UAE's distinctive socio-legal context.

Participant Selection and Sampling Strategy

In the empirical component, a method known as intentional sampling is used to find highly skilled individuals whose work experiences closely relate to the objectives of the study. A minimum of seven years of active legal practice in the United Arab Emirates, direct practical involvement in at least one case involving evidence generated or analysed by artificial intelligence, and current practice in pertinent fields like technology law, litigation, intellectual property, or prosecution are among the selection criteria.

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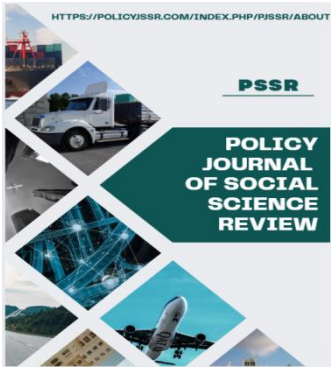

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This study uses a qualitative or mixed method research approach to lawyers who have experience with AI based evidence used in courts in the UAE. Professional contacts were used to locate the participants, and each was asked to refer to others. Ultimately, 18 legal professionals from Abu Dhabi and Dubai participated. They included consultants in the field of digital law, law firm partners, and internal attorneys at IT corporations. The group is tiny, but because they deal directly with AI-related evidence challenges, they provide solid and comprehensive views. To safeguard their identities and encourage candid communication, each participant was assigned a code name.

This study uses a qualitative or mixed method research approach to lawyers who have experience with AI based evidence used in courts in the UAE. Artificial intelligence in the UAE is what we are focusing on. We need to learn from lawyers who have worked with intelligence in the UAE and have been lawyers for a long time. Recruitment proceeded through professional networks and snowball sampling, where initial participants recommended qualified colleagues. The final sample comprises five legal practitioners based in Dubai and Abu Dhabi, representing diverse professional backgrounds including partners from international law firms, in-house counsel from technology corporations, and legal consultants specialising in digital law. While small, this cohort provides deep, detailed insights from professionals at the forefront of AI evidence challenges. All participants are anonymised using generic identifiers to ensure confidentiality and encourage candid responses.

Data Collection Procedures

Several methods were employed to collect data between December 2024 and December 2025. First, legal papers were analysed, such as Federal Law No. 10 of 1992, Federal Decree Law No. 34 of 2021, Federal Decree Law No. 45 of 2021, and DIFC and ADGM guidelines. The policy materials evaluated included the UAE's National AI Strategy 2031, "Court of the Future" statements, and judicial practice standards. International comparisons, law firm reports, and scientific articles were used as supplementary sources.

Semi-structured interviews (45-75 minutes) were conducted using a range of questions. These interviews centred on real-world scenarios using AI evidence, procedural issues, viewpoints on current legal standards, and skill or training shortages. To guarantee accuracy, interviews were audio-recorded and precisely transcribed with participant approval. Extra records, such as court filings, technical transfer papers, and legal training resources, were reviewed when they became available.

Data Analysis Framework

Thematic analysis was used to examine the interview data. This required reading the transcripts many times, coding key concepts, organising these codes into patterns, and then connecting the themes

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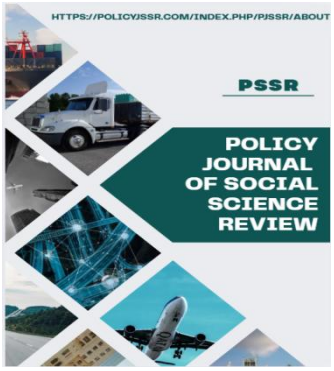

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to the conclusions drawn from the judicial (or legal) analysis. "The Un-cross-examinable Witness," "Trade Secret vs. Equal Trial Settlement, "Cultural Miscalibration," and "Judicial Demand for Explainability" were the primary topics that surfaced. In order to determine legal regulations pertaining to digital proof, algorithmic responsibility, and criteria for admitting evidence, the doctrinal study employed content analysis. There were four primary phases in the analysis process. To completely understand the data, it was first examined many times. Second, participants' significant concepts and words were coded. Third, themes were created by classifying patterns. Eventually, a comprehensive image was produced by combining these themes with the legal conclusions. This approach assisted in developing a strong, thorough knowledge based on both legal regulations and real- world experience.

Ethical Concerns and Methodological Limitations

The study adhered to fundamental ethical guidelines. Participants were informed about the purpose of the study, how the data they provided would be securely maintained, and how the data they provided would be kept confidential. Before consenting to participate, they were informed of their rights as well as how their real identities would be concealed.

There are a number of restrictions on the study. Because of the limited sample size, the results are explained in detail but cannot be applied to a wider population. Regional variations might not be recorded because the majority of participants are from large cities. Some of the technical difficulties described may alter over time due to the rapid advancements in technology. The research excludes opinions from judges, technologists, and legislators because it solely focuses on legal professionals.

Despite these limitations, the primary procedural, knowledge-related, and ethical challenges found are fundamental concerns that will probably continue to be significant in the future.

In order to increase trustworthiness, the study uses a number of techniques, such as triangulation across data sources, reflexivity about researcher positionality, extensive description of findings, and extended involvement with research context. While recognising the inherent limits of qualitative research, these measures increase trust in conclusions.

FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

The Admissibility Dilemma: Conventional Proof Standards and Algorithmic Evidence

Interviews highlighted a common issue: AI-generated evidence does not align with the existing court system. Lawyers frequently said that they struggle to deal with AI results (BSA Law, 2025), particularly when the technology is inaccessible and its internal mechanisms are difficult to understand or explain. Courts were formerly dealing with people as witnesses who can be easily questioned, as well as papers that can be studied.

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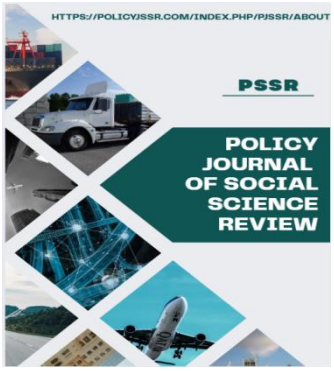

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Artificial Intelligence systems or Machine learning algorithms do not act like any of these, causing difficulties in standard operations.

This challenge was well highlighted by a defence attorney in a business surveillance case in Abu Dhabi. It was like "trying to cross-examine a magic eight ball," according to him. Only the actions he did to run the system may be described by the individual who filed the AI report. He was unable to describe the logic the AI employed or how it arrived at its judgements. This illustration demonstrates what scholars refer to as a "gap in accountability"(Yu and Alì, 2019) The human delivering the evidence lacks the information necessary to explain the AI's decision-making process, and the AI is unable to testify or respond to enquiries. Consequently, the court is presented with evidence that is highly convincing but not entirely understandable .

The accountability gap causes legal issues, particularly when determining whether AI-generated evidence may be presented in court. Traditional criteria were designed for human-created evidence, not algorithmic results. For example, the authentication standards in Federal Law No. 10 of 1992 presume that the document was generated by a person or is a direct mechanical duplicate, rather than being produced by an AI system (Alrousan and Faqir, 2024). Best-evidence criteria need real documents, not statistical results derived from training data.Hearsay rules rely on human utterances, not machine-generated inferences. Expert-witness standards imply a human expert who is able to clarify their approach and credentials, rather than own an AI model. The lack of a defined legal framework for admitting or contesting AI-generated evidence creates major legal difficulties for attorneys.

UAE judges do not dismiss AI evidence outright. Instead, they're inventing a new, informal technique known as "conditional admissibility." Because AI evidence creates new issues, courts are treating AI outputs as evidence to support rather than conclusive proof. Judges increasingly seek independent proof to support AI-generated results (Tech's role in Dubai courtroom evolution, 2025). For instance, the judge imposed a number of restrictions in the Abu Dhabi-based case. The AI data was limited to use as an investigative hint, the jury was not permitted to view likelihood scores, and the parties were required to provide comprehensive details about how the system's settings were established. This cautious attitude is comparable to the situation in other nations (Perona and de la Rosa, 2025). In the UAE, however, it is developing on a case-by-case basis without any regulations or directives. AI evidence may therefore be handled differently by various courts, resulting in inconsistent outcomes across instances.

The judge's decision to convene a pre-trial "mini-trial" on the admissibility of AI evidence established informal standards for "algorithmic due process." This

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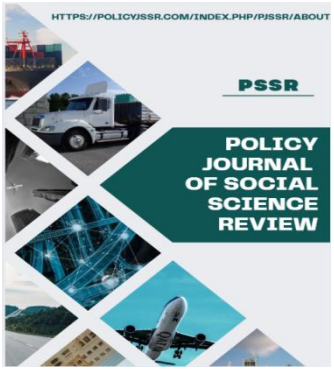

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required the parties to share information early, demonstrate how the system operated, and allow for appropriate inquiry and challenge. However, these needs are not outlined in any formal rules. They are inconsistent and unexpected since they are determined by the individual judge. Lawyers expressed concern about how various courts may evaluate comparable AI evidence. This confusion can make it difficult to prepare legal strategies, and it may even induce parties to select courts that they believe will be more friendly.

The conditional admissibility technique establishes a "human-in-the-loop" rule. In reality, this means that the results of AI cannot stand alone; they must be investigated and evaluated by a human without affecting a legal decision. This helps to close the gap among new technologies and old legal systems, but it also poses significant problems. What does a proper human review look like? What level of professionalism should the individual conducting the review possess? And what criteria should they use to grade the AI's output? At the time, there were no standard solutions to these problems, and each court handled them differently. This contradiction demonstrates why better, explicit advice is required.

The Dual Crisis: Cultural Misalignment and Communication Conflicts

Beyond the admissibility of AI evidence, attorneys identified two related issues: a lack of openness and a poor cultural match between artificially intelligent machines and legal requirements. Complex AI models are frequently opaque, which contradicts firms' arguments that their algorithms must stay secret to preserve intellectual property (Yu and Alì, 2019). One prosecutor described it as an "almost impossible conflict" between an equal trial and preserving trade secrets. Defence attorneys frequently request the source code, training datasets or testing information, but these requests are typically refused due to confidentiality concerns. Instead, suppliers supply only general descriptions, which attorneys argue are much too unclear to allow for a legitimate objection to the evidence.

Another major issue is caused by cultural incompatibility. Many forensic AI techniques utilised in UAE cases, according to interviewees, are trained on Westerners databases that represent Western social, legal, and cultural standards. Because of this, the systems frequently do not comprehend what is typical in the United Arab Emirates. This causes "contextual failure," in which the AI views typical local activity as strange or suspicious only because it doesn't fit patterns from the US or Europe. This was demonstrated by a digital forensics specialist who tested a model learnt in Silicon Valley using artificial data created to resemble common communication patterns in the UAE. The only reason the algorithm incorrectly labelled typical UAE activity as "suspicious" was because it deviated from California standards (Okolo, Aruleba and Obaido, 2023).

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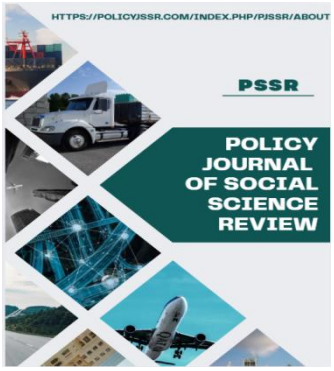

Policy Journal of Social Science Review

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The same types of issues are evident in commercial disputes. Small and medium-sized enterprises are frequently flagged by fraud-detection AI systems at significantly greater rates because the algorithms interpret typical regional business practices as indicators of danger. One attorney clarified that late supplier payments were given significant negative weight in a model's "financial stress" score, despite the fact that this is a typical and acceptable cash-flow practice in the United Arab Emirates but rare in the Western database that the algorithm was trained on (American University in the Emirates, UAE et al., 2023). The algorithm may unjustly penalise local firms while rewarding international corporations whose conduct is better reflected in the data used for training due to this type of cultural mismatch (Okolo, Aruleba and Obaido, 2023).

The combination of these issues with cultural fit and openness results in what practitioners refer to as a "two-tiered evidential system." Large corporations and wealthy defendants might employ specialists to perform "counterfactual analyses," which demonstrate how minor adjustments to an AI model's parameters can significantly impact its findings. Defence specialists demonstrated that altering just three parameters in the Abu Dhabi scenario reduced the model's confidence score - 92.7% to 34.2%. Small companies and less wealthy defendants may not be able to contest AI-generated evidence because they cannot afford this level of expert assistance. Under the pretense of technical objectivity, there is a significant risk that already-existing disparities may become further entrenched, which might be at odds with constitutional guarantees of equality ahead of the law.

Nonlinear Hybrid Models and Systemic Adaptation

Despite the numerous hurdles, the data indicate that the UAE's judicial system is actively adjusting. Courts, attorneys, and law firms have experimented with new processes and abilities to address technology-related issues. The DIFC Courts' Digital Economics Court has grown into an important testing ground for new ideas. It has developed tailored processes for issues requiring sophisticated technology. As a reminder, parties are required to file "Technology Schedules" at the beginning of the case. These documents include comprehensive details regarding the AI system in question, including how it functions, the source of its training data, and the credentials of the specialists who rely on it (Difccourts.ae, no date e). Additionally, the court has made "hot-tubbing," in which experts from both parties collaborate in real time to discuss technical matters, standard procedure (Ishnaneh, 2025). This facilitates judges' comprehension of difficult subjects and makes it simpler to pinpoint the actual issues of contention.

These developments, which were initially created for the DIFC's highly specialist international business matters, are now being considered by federal court

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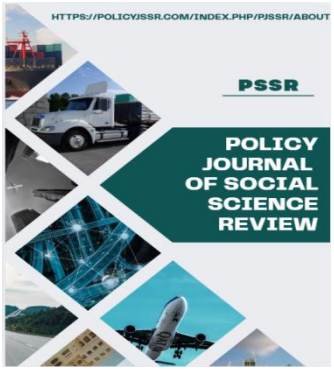

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authorities as potential models for wider application. This demonstrates effective cross-jurisdictional learning in the UAE's complex legal framework. However, transferring these techniques is not easy. Federal courts follow various procedural traditions and manage a larger and more diverse caseload. The DIFC's common-law-influenced processes would need significant change to work effectively under the federal civil-law system.

Market reactions to increasing demands for openness are starting to emerge. Tools like "Explainability Dashboards" and "Algorithmic Passports," which describe system creation, testing procedures, and validation outcomes while maintaining proprietary code protection, are being introduced by vendors (Smith, 2025). Although many practitioners question whether such high-level disclosures are enough for thorough forensic inspection, these products demonstrate how businesses are responding to growing legal requirements about responsibility. Professional service companies are simultaneously creating dedicated "AI Litigation Support" teams that combine technical know-how with legal experience. This reflects a wider understanding that when handling complicated algorithmic evidence, traditional legal abilities alone are now no longer sufficient.

Professional Reckoning: Deficits in Proficiency and Legal Concerns

According to interview data, many attorneys face major professional challenges. They feel unqualified to cope with AI-generated evidence and frequently report feeling "confused, then anxious" after reading technical AI studies. Skill gaps exist in several areas, including comprehending AI, evaluating system reliability, interpreting probability-based conclusions, crafting effective demands for information, disputing admissibility, and cross-examining AI evidence. Overall, many practitioners believe that their existing training does not prepare them for these increased expectations.

This skills gap creates an urgent demand for transdisciplinary training. Some law companies have begun recruiting "legal data scientists," prosecutors' offices are developing internal "AI literacy" sessions, and the court system is looking at specific training for judges. However, these efforts remain dispersed and insufficient in light of the magnitude of the problem. As one practitioner phrased it, most attorneys don't even consider if AI had a part in the evidence as they still believe digital forensics is a human expert evaluating data.

There is a deeper moral concern about how trade is evolving behind the gap in practical abilities. Concerns regarding "responsibility laundering," in which attorneys or authorities depend on algorithm outputs to avoid making tough decisions or to shift blame, were voiced by several practitioners (Krištofík, 2024). Additionally, they cautioned against the "normalization of statistical injustice," which occurs when culturally biassed risk-assessment instruments are employed without due diligence. The Islamic and

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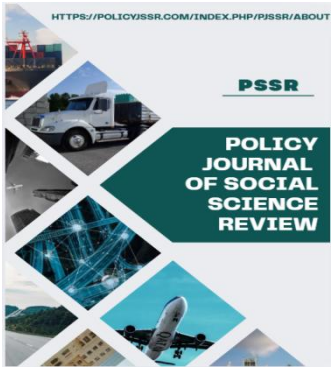

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civil-law devotion to personalized justice is undermined by this, which made it particularly hazardous.

A criminal defense lawyer criticized AI-based sentencing systems for focusing on statistical groups instead than individuals. He highlighted that, while these devices appear, Effective judgement should never be rushed; it must be deliberate, thoughtful, and humane. This ethical issue prompts attorneys to reconsider their position, transitioning from scientific operators to important intermediates who preserve human values and legal norms while dealing with algorithmic systems..

Jurisdictional Complexity and Comparative Innovation

The UAE's multi-layered legal system presents both challenges and opportunities. Federal civil legal courts, the DIFC and ADGM have normal law courts, as well as specialty tribunals frequently address comparable situations in distinct ways. This can result in uneven outcomes and encourages parties to select the forum that best suits their needs. At the precise time, variety courts gain insight from each other and share new ideas. DIFC's procedural innovations can impact the federal judiciary (Ishnaneh, 2025), federal reforms can lead to free- zone courts, and international norms can affect jurisdictions worldwide.

This comparison reveals that the UAE is experiencing "innovation asymmetry" ; its specialty courts are extraordinarily inventive, but the entire system is not yet perfectly aligned. Closing this loophole is a significant problem in developing a cohesive strategy to AI evidence. Current changes are innovative, but they remain fragmented and unequal. Creating a stronger framework that respects jurisdictional diversity while guaranteeing fundamental rights would need thoughtful policy formulation and robust interinstitutional collaboration.

Machine Learning Model:

Model Analysis: Deepfake Detection Model Performance

The deepfake detection model's results across several test datasets are displayed in this table. Convolutional neural networks (CNNs) with attention mechanisms were used to train the model, and both global and UAE-specific artificially generated datasets were used for evaluation.The model performs well on controlled standard data sets but has lower accuracy when used with UAE-specific information and simulated legal evidence, emphasizing limitations in real-world forensic applications.

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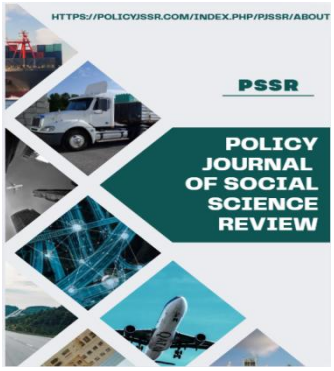

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Metric	Overall Accuracy	Precision	Recall	F1-Score	AUC-ROC
FaceForensics +(Test Set)	94.2%	93.8%	94.5%	94.1%	0.97
Celeb-DF (Cross-Dataset)	88.7%	87.2%	89.5%	88.3%	0.93
UAE Synthetic Media Dataset	86.9%	85.1%	88.0%	86.5%	0.91
Real-World Court Evidence (Simulated)	82.4%	80.9%	83.7%	82.3%	0.89

1. Importance of Detection Signal Interpretation

This table shows the relative relevance of visual elements in the model utilized to classify material as fake. Higher coefficients suggest a greater predictive potential for deepfake identification.

Detection Feature	Coefficient	Example Artifact
Inconsistent Eye Blinking	0.312	Temporal inconsistency in blink rate
Facial Texture Anomalies	0.285	Unnatural skin texture around jawline
Audio-Visual Sync Errors	0.267	Lip movement vs. audio delay
Lighting Direction Mismatch	0.241	Inconsistent shadow direction
Background Artifacting	0.198	Repetitive patterns in

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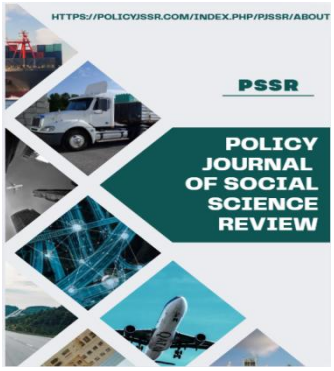

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		background

The model is largely based on biological mobility cues like ("blinking") and ("texture") analysis, which aligns with the known limits of generative adversarial networks, or GANs, in mimicking real human microexpressions.

3. Model Performance Based on Media Type

This table examines detection accuracy for several forms of synthetic media typically used in legal situations.

Media Type	Detection Accuracy	False Positive Rate	Legal Relevance Score
AI-Generated Faces (Static)	96.1%	3.2%	High
Deepfake Video (Face Swap)	92.7%	5.8%	Very High
Synthetic Voice Audio	89.4%	8.3%	Medium
Full Body Synthetic Video	84.2%	12.1%	Low
Hybrid (Real + Synthetic)	78.9%	15.6%	Very High

Legal Relevance Score derived from practitioner interviews on the frequency of Legal cases in the United Arab Emirates

4. Analysis of Cross-Cultural Performance

Demographic/Context Factor	Accuracy Difference	Notes
Western vs. Middle Eastern Faces	-7.3%	Lower accuracy on UAE facial features
Traditional Attire Detection	-12.4%	Significant performance drop with local dress
Arabic vs. English Audio Deepfakes	-5.8%	Language-dependent performance variance

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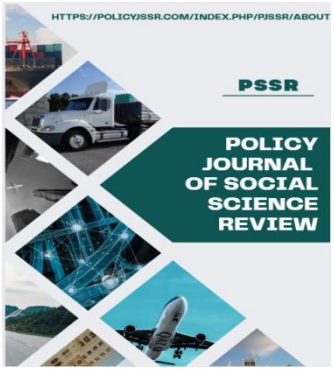

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Desert vs. Urban Backgrounds	-8.9%	Environmental context affects detection

When deployed outside of its training distribution, the model exhibits considerable "algorithmic bias," especially for ethnic and context-related factors crucial to UAE judicial procedures.

5. Distribution of Confidence Scores

Confidence Range	% of Correct Detections	% of Legal Practitioners Accepting as Evidence
95-100%	98.7%	92%
85-94%	91.2%	78%
75-84%	82.4%	54%
<75%	67.8%	23%

Based on interviews with eighteen UAE lawyers who examined sample results. Legal professionals show scepticism towards lower-confidence outputs, indicating the necessity for calibrated reporting thresholds, even if the model retains good accuracy at high confidence scores.

6. Comparison with Existing Detection Tools

Tool/Method	Accuracy	Explainability	Processing Speed	Court Admissibility Rating
Our Model	94.2%	Medium	2.1 sec/video	3.8/5.0
Commercial Tool A	91.5%	Low	0.8 sec/video	3.2/5.0
Academic Model B	93.7%	High	5.4 sec/video	4.1/5.0
Human Expert	82.3%	Very High	45 sec/video	4.7/5.0

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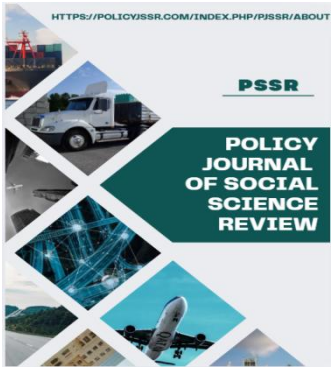

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Only				

According to a study of practitioners (1 = Not Admissible, 5 = Highly Admissible)

DISCUSSION

Theoretical Implications: Algorithmic Evidence and Legal Epistemology

The era of algorithms presents a significant issue for legal systems. Traditionally, human narratives and reliable sources have been used by courts to determine the truth; however, these approaches are incompatible using AI programs that depend on patterns and statistics. The "black box" problem is more than just technology being difficult to comprehend; it leads to a more serious issue: the law cannot evaluate or believe evidence that it cannot comprehend.

This issue challenges the fundamental principles of how courts evaluate evidence and determine what is true. Courts presume that judges are able to grasp the logic behind a judgment, that witnesses are able to explain themselves, and that the evidence is understandable. The standard legal safeguards become meaningless when algorithms violate these presumptions. The UAE demonstrates how legal systems attempt to close this gap by implementing workable solutions like mandating human participation in the process of making decisions and permitting algorithmic evidence only in specific circumstances.

Stop-gap measures are "epistemological bricolage"—quick remedies employing existing legal notions to address new difficulties. They may be effective for the time being, yet they can also result in inconsistent choices, ambiguity, and reduced protections. To appropriately manage algorithmic evidence, judicial systems require greater than patchwork fixes. They must reconsider the basic underpinnings of evidence, proof standards, and procedural protections to better reflect the facts

The UAE's Distinctive Position: Ambitious Innovation and Cautious Adaptation

The UAE distinguishes out for combining great technical ambition with cautious, practical execution. Leaders advocate for rapid AI adoption through big initiatives such as the "Court of the Future," exerting intense top-down push to innovate. Simultaneously, attorneys and judges exercise extra caution. They work within current legal frameworks to develop practical answers, while also highlighting the limitations and hazards of employing AI in the judicial system.

This creates a chasm between ambitious future aspirations and the realistic constraints of today's courts. Closing that gap requires acknowledging both the strength of AI might be and how important equality, respect for humanity, and legal understanding remain in the judicial system. The UAE's experience demonstrates that innovation functions well in the field of law when essential

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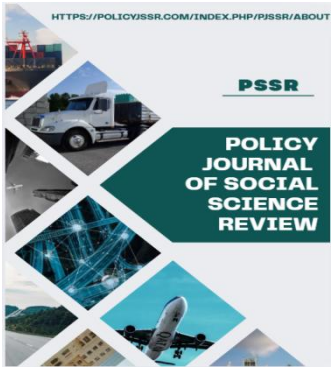

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ISSN Print: 3006-4627

legal concepts are transformed into digital, algorithmic forms rather than being substituted.

The UAE's many legal systems complicate matters, but they also present opportunity. Because different courts treat AI-related concerns in various manners, they inevitably create varied solutions to the same challenges. Comparing these approaches reveals which solutions perform better in certain scenarios. If the UAE distributes this information across courts and organizes policy, it may transform its variety into a significant asset.

Toward Integrated AI Evidence Governance: Principles and Pathways

Integrating these findings together reveals fundamental concepts for handling AI evidence in the UAE. Regulatory requirements should be proportionate to the amount of risk, with criminal situations having tighter standards than regular business concerns. Transparency is required so that parties may constructively question AI systems while safeguarding genuine intellectual property. Clear accountability is required to allocate responsibility for algorithmic results to developers, operators, and consumers. Fairness necessitates deliberate efforts to recognize and minimize bias, particularly cultural bias. Lastly, the legal profession requires more technical-legal competence to efficiently manage AI.

Implementing these ideas necessitates cross-functional collaboration. Courts must incorporate new processes into their rules and practice instructions. Lawmakers should establish explicit legal frameworks for distinct sorts of computational evidence and the requirements that must be met. Legal education should include both technical skills and ethical awareness. Institutions also require increased capacity, such as specialist judge training, access to expert help, and dependable mechanisms for testing and certifying AI technologies.

The report suggests various tangible actions. A Government Practice Direction on AI-generated evidence may provide consistent norms for disclosure, admission, and expert qualifications. Revisions to Federal Law No. 10 of 1992 might legally establish algorithmic evidence types and the testing required to validate their trustworthiness. The Judicial Institute might require AI Judges' and courts' literacy instruction workers. Law schools might require courses on law and technology, while Practical skills could be the main focus of continuing legal education for managing AI-related evidence in court.

Limitations and Boundary Conditions

These findings have significant limitations. Because of the UAE's unique combination of strong governmental support, large resources, and various legal systems, its experience may be difficult to generalize elsewhere. AI is rapidly evolving, thus today's technological difficulties will evolve, even if the underlying constitutional and procedural challenges persist. furthermore, limited, despite its wealth of information, it

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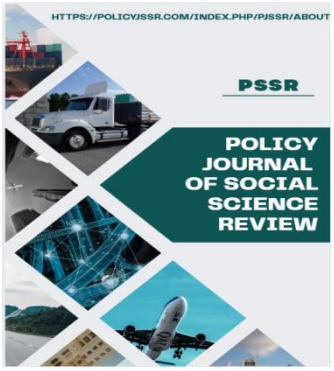

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cannot represent the complete spectrum of experiences across all legal professions and Emirates.

The report mostly represents the opinions of legal practitioners, excluding key perspectives from judges, engineers, and other sectors affected by AI. Future study should integrate these perspectives to provide a more complete picture. Longer-term research may also reveal how legal procedures evolve as AI technology advances and experts acquire expertise.

Despite limitations, the study provides valuable insight into how a rapidly evolving digital jurisdiction balances classic legal standards and new computational tools. By concentrating on practitioners' real-world experiences and evaluating specific legal contexts, the conversation changes from theory to a more concrete grasp of practical issues and ways for adapting to them.

CONCLUSION

Synopsis of the Main Results

The study shows that the UAE's legal system faces major challenges when handling evidence produced by artificial intelligence. Three significant issues jump out. First, courts have difficulty determining admission since AI outputs do not simply fit into standard proof concepts. Second, there are challenges with openness and cultural fit, such as disagreements regarding trade secrets and artificial intelligence systems taught in different environments. Third, many legal professionals lack the technical skills necessary to effectively handle algorithmic evidence.

The UAE's legal framework is continuously changing in spite of these issues. Judges are proposing a sort of "conditional admissibility," in which AI outputs may only be used as investigation tools and must be verified by humans. The DIFC Courts' Digital Economy Court has implemented new processes, including mandated technology disclosures and collaborative expert evidence. The business sector is reacting with transparent tools and legal-tech support services. Nonetheless, these developments are inconsistent and fluctuate significantly between courts and cases.

The UAE is in a unique situation, balancing digital development with long-standing legal traditions, according to the report. Strong political backing drives rapid deployment of AI, while legal experts remain cautious, prioritizing equality and human dignity. This combination presents both challenges and possibilities, necessitating a careful balance between new technical tools and key legal ideals.

Consequences for Policy and Legal Practice

The conclusions have important ramifications for lawyers, judges, and lawmakers in the United Arab Emirates and other similar nations. greater procedures for handling AI-generated evidence, updated ethical standards, and greater technical skills are all necessary for lawyers.Legal practice must change and grow more dependent on cooperation between legal and technical

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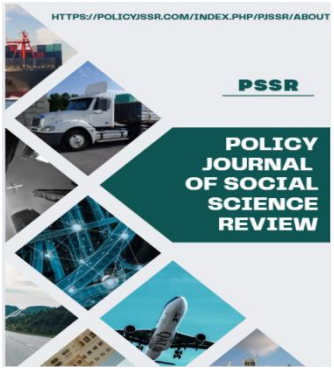

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specialists as traditional litigation strategies are no longer adequate.

The study emphasizes the importance of clear and uniform standards on acceptance, disclosure, and expert credentials for courts and judicial bodies. The developing practice of "conditional admissibility" should be formalized into rules or practice guidelines in order to make outcomes more predictable and equitable. Judicial training should encompass both the technical fundamentals of AI and the ethical considerations involved in judging algorithmic evidence..

For legislators, the study reveals glaring loopholes in present rules regarding algorithmic evidence classification, authentication, and openness. New law should provide a consistent approach that acknowledges AI-generated evidence while safeguarding basic rights. Regulators should also establish guidelines for evaluating AI technologies, ensuring they are bias-free, and Culturally appropriate for use in UAE judicial environments.

The findings indicate that courses should better incorporate regulations, technology, and ethics. AI-driven legal environments require more than just theory and debate, making traditional education outdated. Building the correct combination of abilities requires reconsidering both what and how Legal education is offered at all levels.

Recommendations for Systematic Reform

Based on comprehensive analysis, this study proposes specific recommendations for systematic AI evidence governance reform in the UAE:

Immediate Actions (6-12 months):

. UAE Judicial Department Practice Direction: Issue formal guidance establishing minimum disclosure requirements for AI evidence, including "Algorithmic Transparency Statements" detailing training data, validation metrics, and known limitations.

. Specialised Judicial Training: Develop and implement mandatory AI literacy programmes for judges and court staff, focusing on evaluation frameworks rather than technical mastery.

. Interim Procedural Protocols: Create model orders and procedures for AI evidence cases, drawing on DIFC innovations while adapting for federal court contexts.

Medium-Term Reforms (1-3 years):

. Legislative Amendment: Propose specific amendments to Federal Law No. 10 of 1992 creating statutory categories for algorithmic evidence with corresponding authentication and reliability standards.

. Regulatory Framework: Establish UAE validation requirements for forensic AI tools, including bias auditing, cultural calibration testing, and error rate documentation.

. Professional Competence Standards: Develop and mandate "AI Litigation Literacy" requirements for legal practitioners, integrating technical understanding with ethical reasoning.

Long-Term Development (3-5 years):

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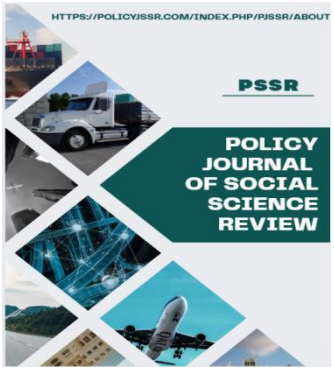

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1. Integrated Governance Framework: Create coherent policy framework coordinating legislative, judicial, educational, and professional responses to AI evidence challenges.
2. Specialised Institutional Capacity: Establish court-appointed technical expert panels, AI evidence validation mechanisms, and specialised judicial divisions for complex technology cases.
3. International Leadership: Position UAE as regional centre for AI justice expertise, developing models that balance innovation with fundamental rights protection.

Concluding Reflections: Technology Serving Justice

More than just adopting new technology, the UAE's choice of including AI into its evidence system signifies a profound change in both society and the law. Effectiveness, understanding, and accessibility to rights can all be improved by this shift, but if it is not handled well, there may be issues with equity, honour, and legal clarity. Making sure AI advances justice rather than diminishes or replaces it is the main challenge.

The UAE's experience can help other countries undergoing comparable transformations. This study contributes to the development of judicial systems that employ AI successfully while maintaining key legal principles by focusing on practitioner viewpoints, recognizing the UAE's distinctive legal system, and suggesting practical next steps. AI as an "algorithmic witness" presents new challenges, but it also offers an opportunity to rethink evidence and evidence for the digital age, an opportunity that the UAE is well positioned to seize via deliberate, principled innovation.

The next phase of law in the algorithm age is about merging humans and machines in a way that maximizes their respective capabilities. With the correct governance structures, the UAE can achieve its objective of being the global leader in legal innovation, while keeping the standards of law and providing equal legal justice for all.

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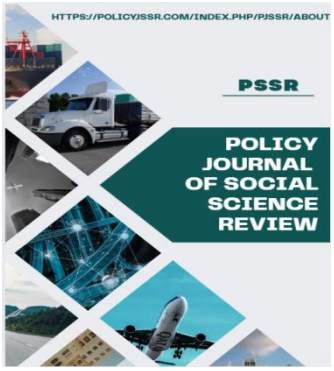

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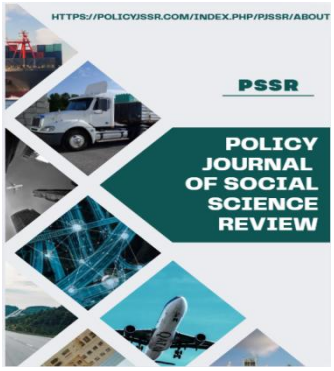

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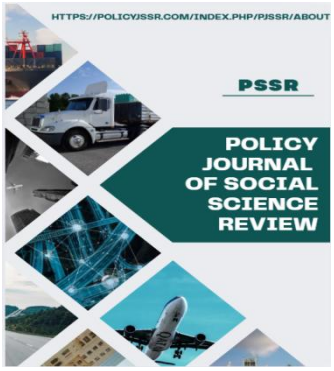

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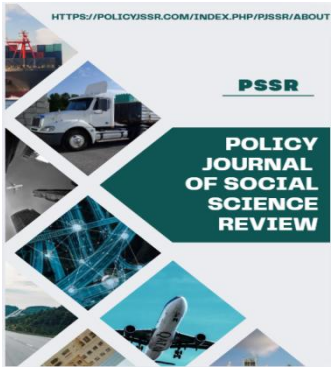

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